

CORPSE PRINCESS

YOSHIICHI
AKAHITO



CORPSE PRINCESS

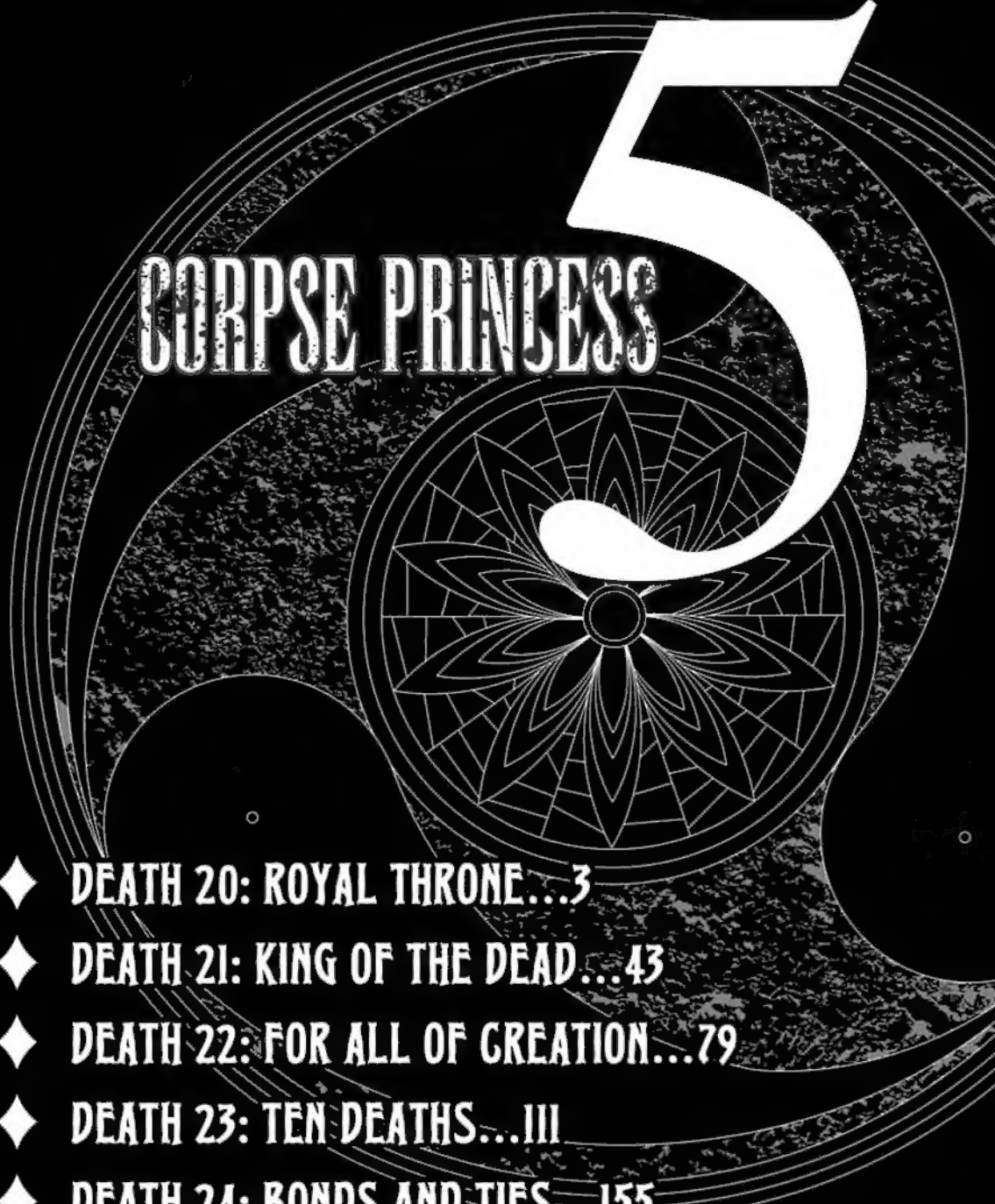


VENGEFUL SPIRITS/ANCESTRAL SPIRITS (NOUN)

In ancient Japan, the Imperial Court and nation as a whole would often be cursed by vengeful spirits (resentful ghosts who caused natural disasters). In order to stop these curses and the calamities they wrought, the ghosts were revered as "ancestral spirits," pacified, and laid to rest. Vengeful spirits of noble origin tended to be the strongest.

C O N T E N T S

CORPSE PRINCESS

- 
- ◆ DEATH 20: ROYAL THRONE...3
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...WHY WE
SUPPOSED
IMMORTALS
CROAK FROM
A LITTLE
DAMAGE TO
THE HEAD?



KU
KU
...

DO
YOU
KNOW
...

WELL,
DO
YOU?

DEATH 20: ROYAL THRONE



...OUR
CURSES
COME
FROM
HERE.

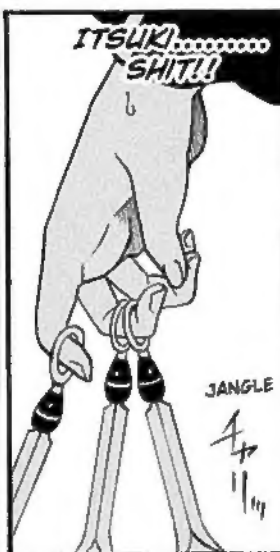
IT'S
'COS
...

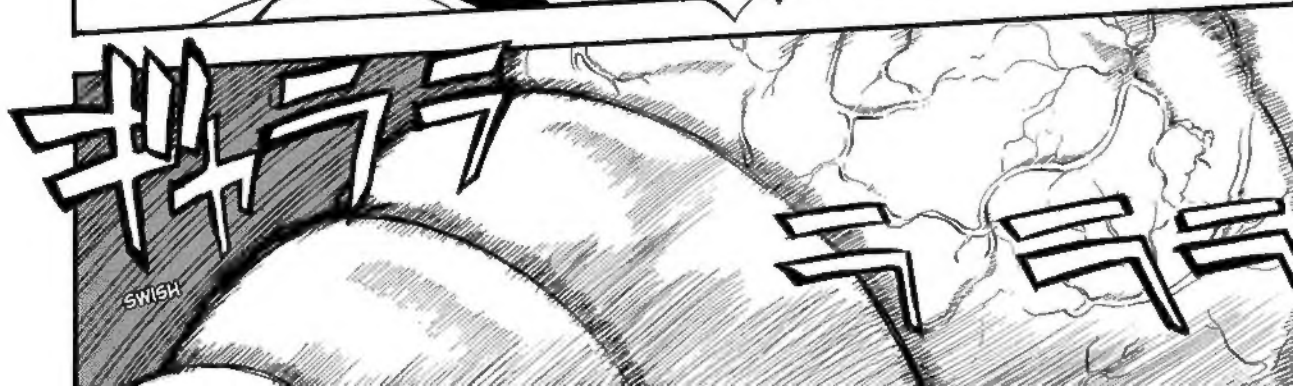


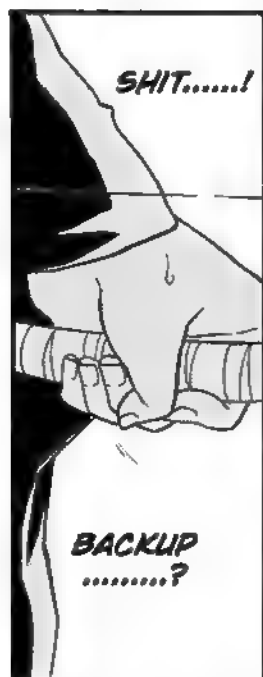














ALL THE LAWS AND BOUNDARIES OF THIS WORLD WILL BE SMASHED.

IN THEIR PLACE WILL RISE A "KINGDOM OF THE DEAD."

STAND

WHEN OUR KING RETURNS ...



AS YOU CAN SEE, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M OUT OF TIME TO PLAY WITH YOU.

SORRY, MONK.

KU KU.



WHAT, HAZAMA?



WRAP

!



..... BUT DON'T WORRY.

CRACK

AFTER I'VE KILLED YOU, I'LL SEND YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU.



WE
OUGHT
TO SHOW
RESTRAINT
AND GIVE
THEM THE
RESPECT
THEY
DESERVE.

TO THE
UNCLEAN
BUNCH,
THESE
GUYS HAVE
BECOME
WORTHY
ADVER-
SARIES.



THAT RATIO-
NALITY'S
A SHORT-
COMING
OF YOURS,
KEITO.



ANOTHER
OF LIFE'S
AMUSE-
MENTS.

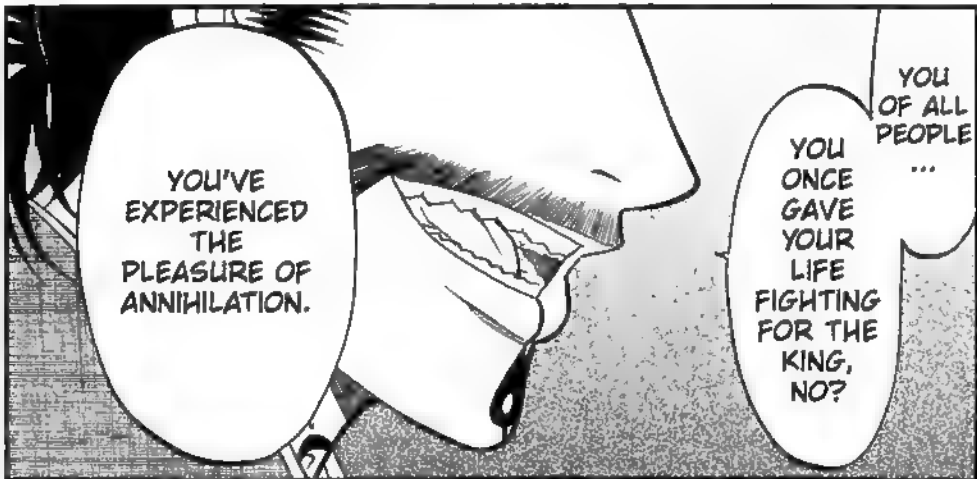
KU
KU
KU
...

IT
WAS
TOYING
WITH
THEM
LIKE THAT
THAT GOT
IZUWA
KILLED.

...
YOU
AN
IDIOT
?



...



YOU'VE
EXPERIENCED
THE
PLEASURE OF
ANNIHILATION.

YOU
ONCE
GAVE
YOUR
LIFE
FIGHTING
FOR THE
KING,
NO?

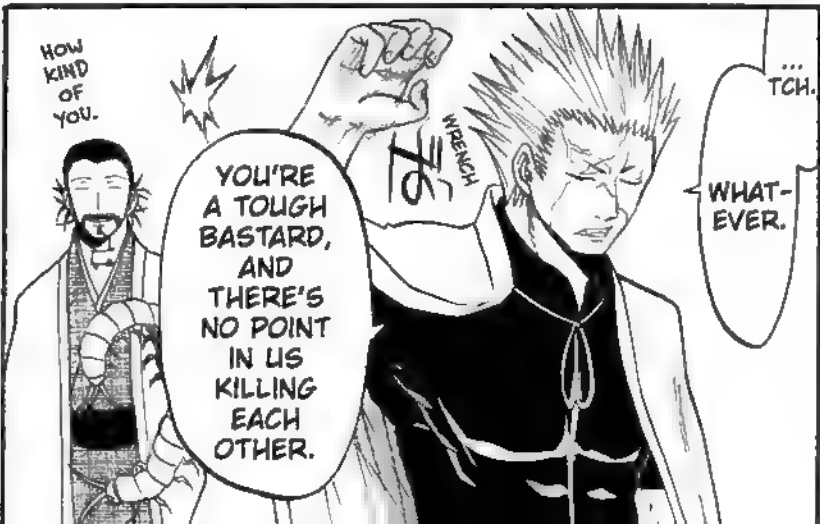
YOU
OF ALL
PEOPLE
...



STILL
...



.....



HOW
KIND
OF
YOU.

YOU'RE
A TOUGH
BASTARD,
AND
THERE'S
NO POINT
IN US
KILLING
EACH
OTHER.

WRENCH

WHAT-
EVER.

...
TCH.





YOU
OUGHT
TO BE
GENTLER
WITH
THE BOY
.....

MY,
MY.....
**HE'S AN
ARCHER,**
JUST AS
YOU WERE
BEFORE
YOU DIED.



PA-
THETIC.

TCH.

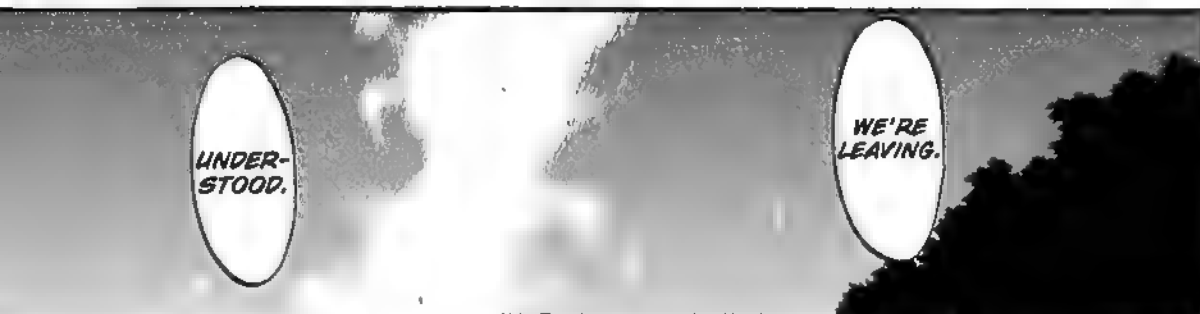


HA.

IF HE
SURVIVED
THAT, HE
DESERVES
TO LIVE.

SNICK
Shallllll

TSK
TSK.
WHAT A
WASTE.



UNDER-
STOOD.

WE'RE
LEAVING.

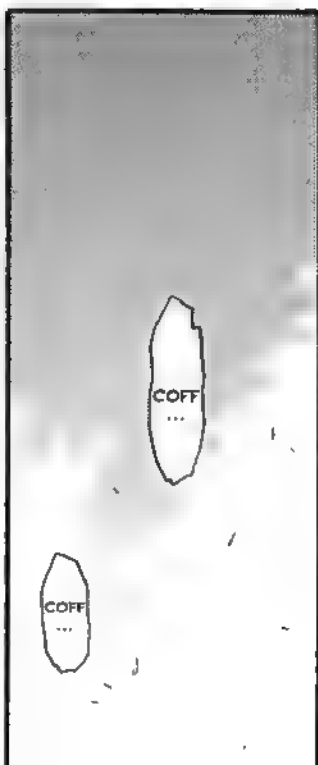


I'M
SORRY
.....

ITSUKI
.....

HAA
.....

COFF
...



COFF
...

COFF
...



I'M
JUST.....
GLAD I
MADE IT
IN TIME.

M
M...
IT'S
OKAY.



.....
SHIT.



I'M
ALL BUT
USELESS
TO YOU,
TAKAMASA
.....

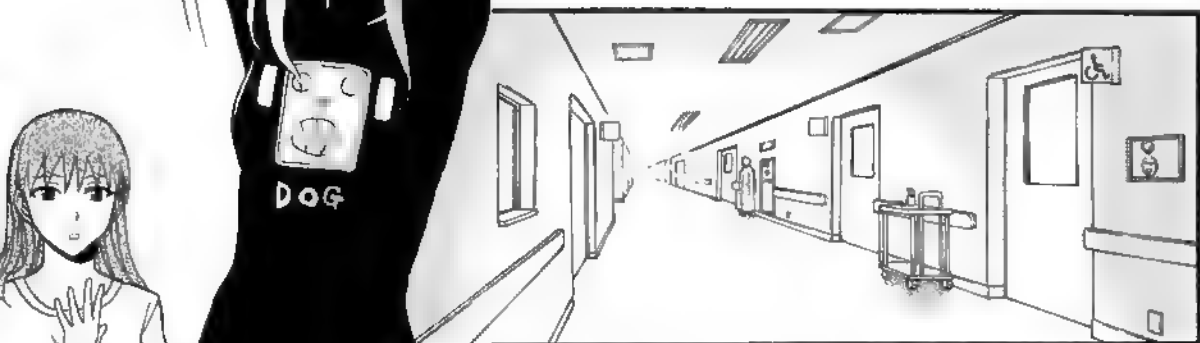
IT'S ALL
BECAUSE...
I'M SUCH
A WEAK
CORPSE
PRINCESS
.....



.....
RIGHT.

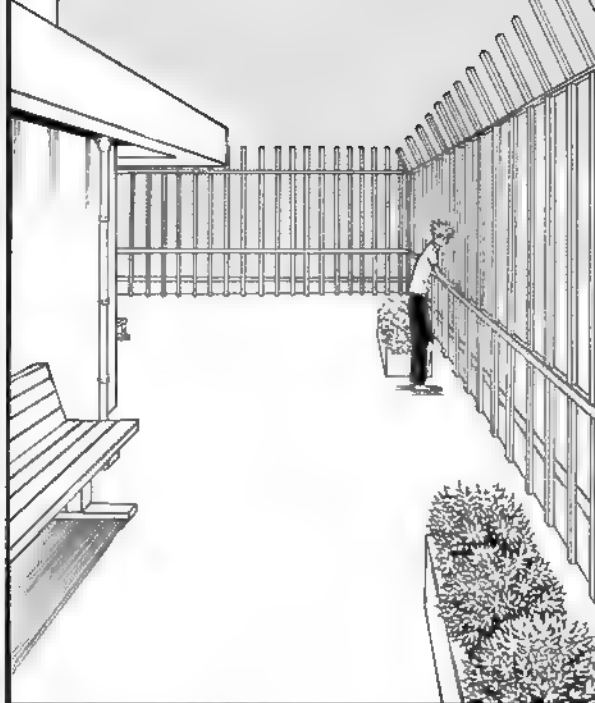
...BUT
WE'LL
GET
THEM
NEXT
TIME.

.....THIS
WAS A
COMPLETE
LOSS.....





WHY'RE
YOU DOWN
IN THE
DUMPS,
DUMMY
?



LIAM.....
I'M.....

INU-
HIKO
.....

GUYS
.....



IN
FACT, WE
SHOULD
BE
THANKING
YOU FOR
SAVING
US.

RIGHT.

WE'RE
TOTALLY
CURED
OF THAT
WORM'S
NUMBING
TOXIN.



IF
IT'S AN
APOLOGY,
I DON'T
WANNA
HEAR IT.

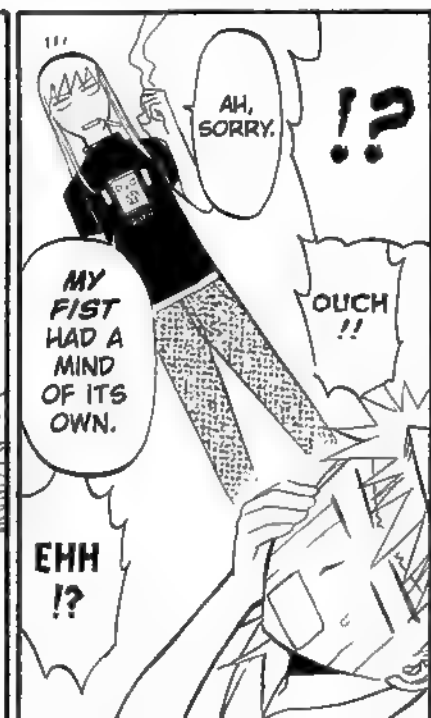
NONE
OF
THIS
WAS
YOUR
FAULT.

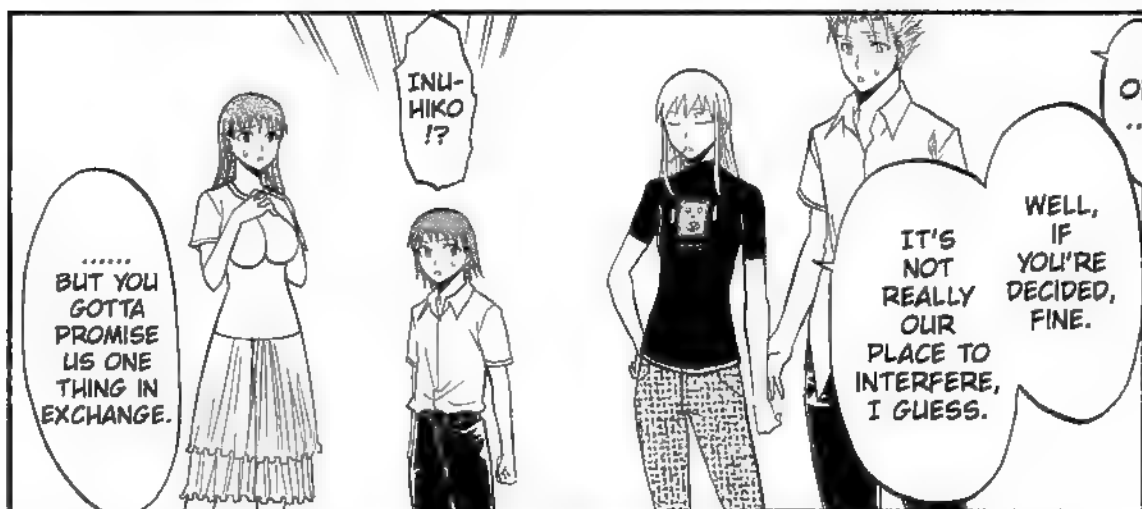


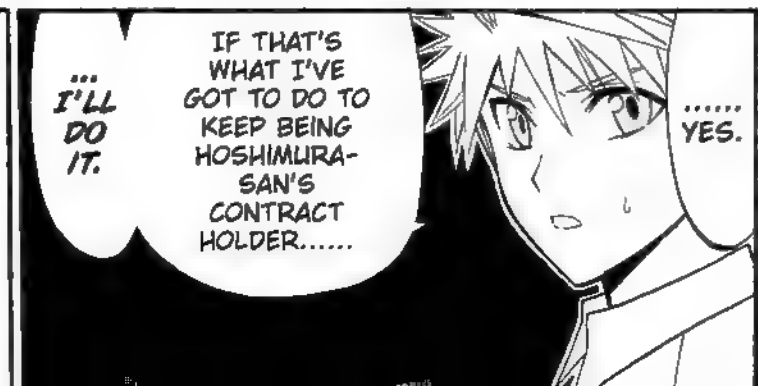
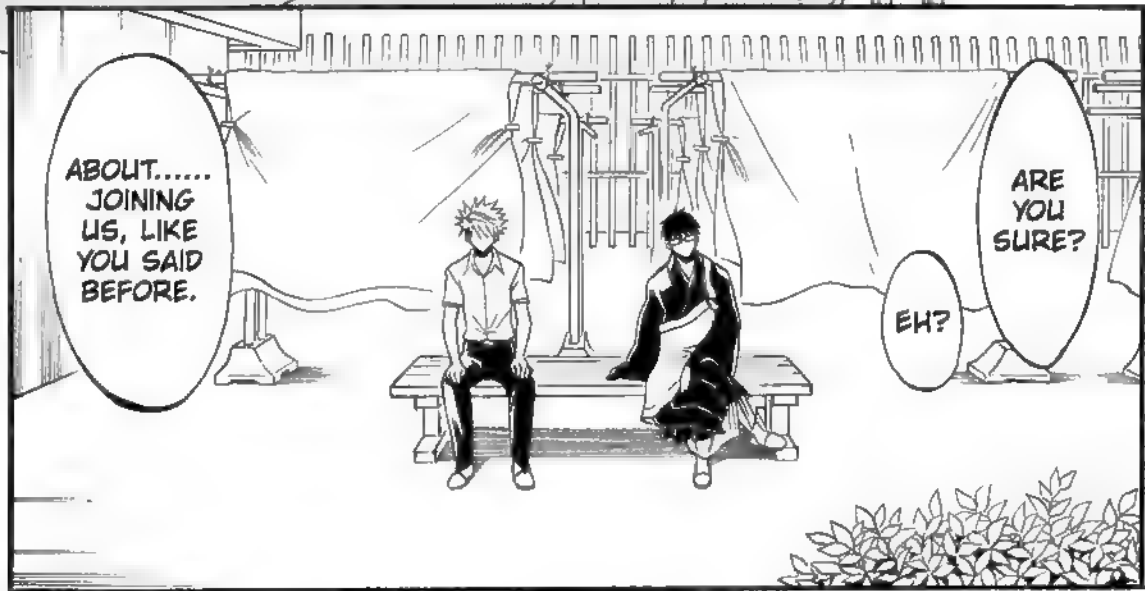
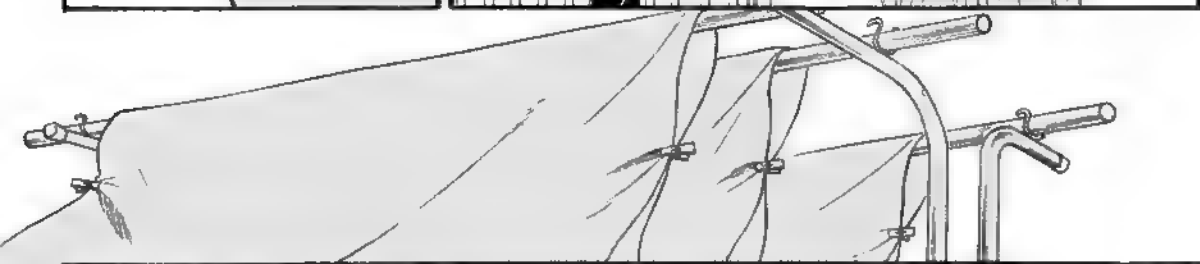
IT
JUST.....
MADE ME
EVEN SURE
ABOUT THIS
DECISION.

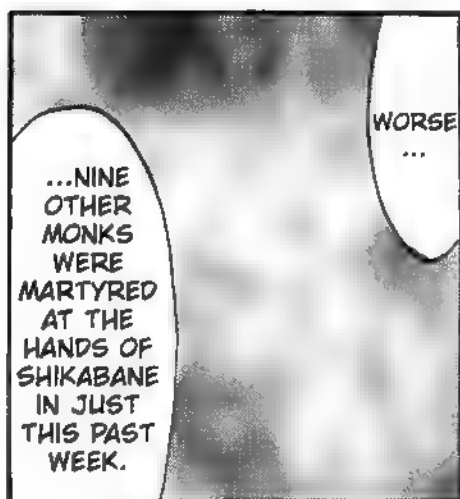
YOU GUYS
GETTING
INVOLVED
IN ALL
THIS.....

.....
NAH.









...NINE
OTHER
MONKS
WERE
MARTYRED
AT THE
HANDS OF
SHIKABANE
IN JUST
THIS PAST
WEEK.

WORSE
...



TWO
OF OUR
MEN
DIED
IN THE
BATTLE
TWO
DAYS
AGO.



MORE
MONKS
AND
CIVILIANS
ARE
SURE TO
DIE.

AND WHEN
NEXT WE
ENCOUNTER
OUR
GREATEST
ENEMY — THE
UNCLEAN
BUNCH —



I'VE
MADE
UP
MY
MIND.

.....
YES!



YET,
STILL
.....

...
YOU
WANT
TO
JOIN
US?





THERE YOU HAVE IT, YOU TWO.



...WE HAVE NO CHOICE, THEN.



.....WAS THIS ALL IN YOUR CALCULATIONS FROM THE START, PROTECTOR?



SIGH...

THAT'S RIGHT.

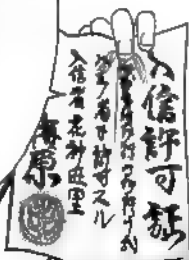
IT GOES AGAINST OUR DOCTRINE TO DENY ANY WHO SEEK SALVATION.

PAPER: PERMISSION TO ENTER THE FAITH. I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION TO ONE OURI KAGAMI TO JOIN THE KOUJON SECT. UMEHARA

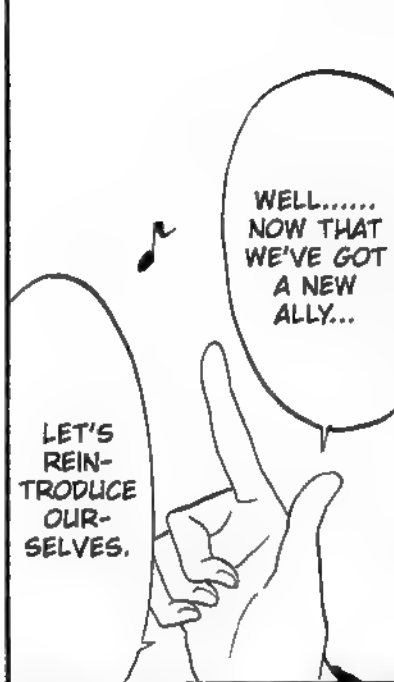


AH HA.

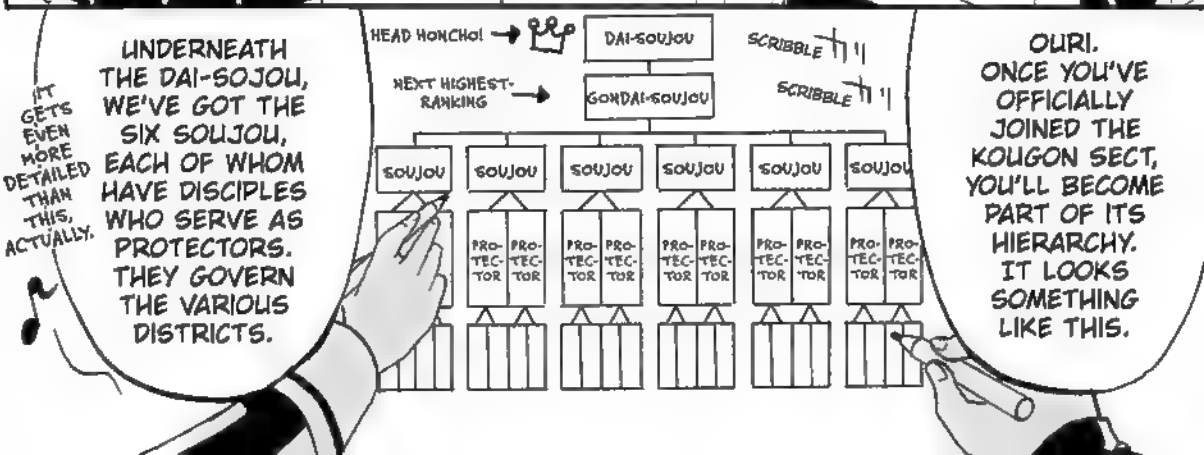
BUT I DID ANTICIPATE IT AND GET PERMISSION FROM THE HIGHER-UPS.

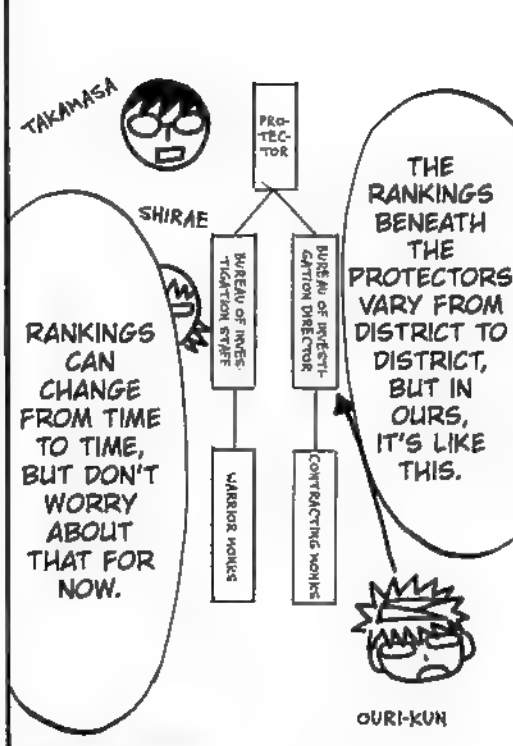


OH, I CAN'T CLAIM THAT.



WELL.....
NOW THAT
WE'VE GOT
A NEW
ALLY...







...THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THEY'LL REPRESENT AN UNPRECEDENTED THREAT.

ONCE THIS KING IS ADDED TO THE UNCLEAN BUNCH'S NUMBERS ...



WE DON'T HAVE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO VENTURE A GUESS AT HIS TRUE IDENTITY YET, BUT.....

THAT'S RIGHT.

A KING.....?
A SHIKABANE ONE.....?



NOT LONG.....
WE SUSPECT.

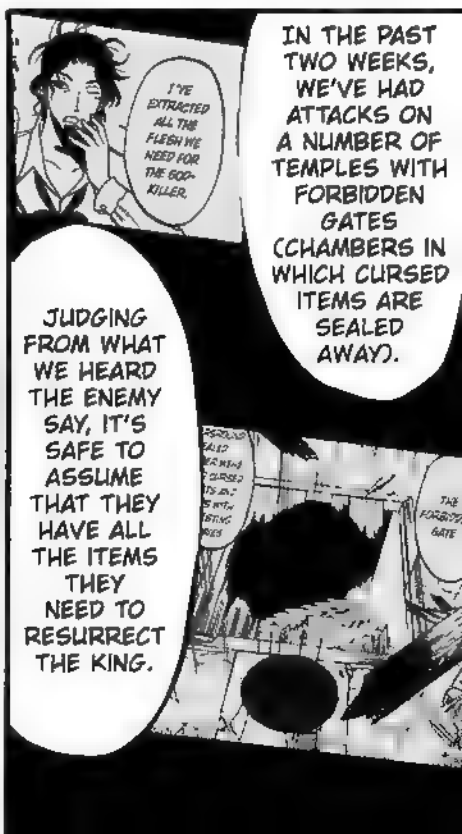
SO HOW LONG BEFORE THEY REVIVE THIS KING OF THEIRS?



EX-
ACTLY.

THE STARS.....
THAT IS, THEY'RE WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME.

.....IN OTHER WORDS, ALL THE UNCLEAN BUNCH NEEDS ...



I'VE EXTRACTED ALL THE FLESH WE NEED FOR THE GOD-KILLER.

IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, WE'VE HAD ATTACKS ON A NUMBER OF TEMPLES WITH FORBIDDEN GATES (CHAMBERS IN WHICH CURSED ITEMS ARE SEALED AWAY).

JUDGING FROM WHAT WE HEARD THE ENEMY SAY, IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THAT THEY HAVE ALL THE ITEMS THEY NEED TO RESURRECT THE KING.



AS HAS BEEN TRUE IN ALL CULTURES THROUGHOUT HISTORY, THE MORE COMPLICATED AND GRAND A RITUAL IS...

...THE MORE IT RELIES ON THE STARS..... ON THE POWER OF FATE. HUMAN POWER ALONE WILL NOT SUFFICE.



THE TIMING.....IS REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

YES.



...I EXPECT THEY'LL CHOOSE THE IDEAL TIME.

THE UNCLEAN BUNCH SHOWS DOGGED DEDICATION TO THEIR KING, SO WHEN IT COMES TO HIS REVIVAL...



...OR, ALTERNATIVELY, DESTROY OR STEAL BACK THE CURSED OBJECTS.

... ELIMINATE THE RITUAL'S CONDUCTOR, AKASHA SHISHIDOU ...

BEFORE THEN, WE MUST DISCOVER THE UNCLEAN BUNCH'S HIDEOUT ...

...ONE AND A HALF MONTHS FROM NOW!!

OUR SUPERIORS ESTIMATE THAT— AT SOONEST— THE RITUAL WILL TAKE PLACE...



THOSE ARE THE GENERAL GUIDELINES OF OUR MISSION FROM HERE ON.





FOR BOTH OUR CORPSE PRINCESSES' SALES.....

YOU... AND I AS WELL.

WE HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER...!



THAT MEANS IT'S OFTEN THE CONTRACTING MONK WHO DETERMINES VICTORY OR DEFEAT.

ABILITY-WISE, SHIKABANE AND CORPSE PRINCESSES ARE ON PAR WITH EACH OTHER.



...I NEVER HAVE TO BE THAT WEAK IN FRONT OF HER AGAIN

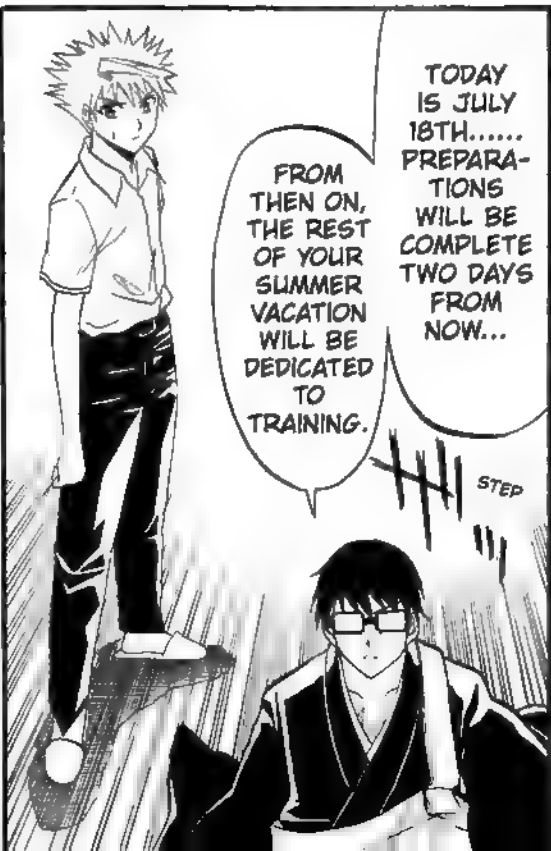


SO THAT.....



...THAT THIS'LL BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO REALLY GAIN SOME HEADWAY.

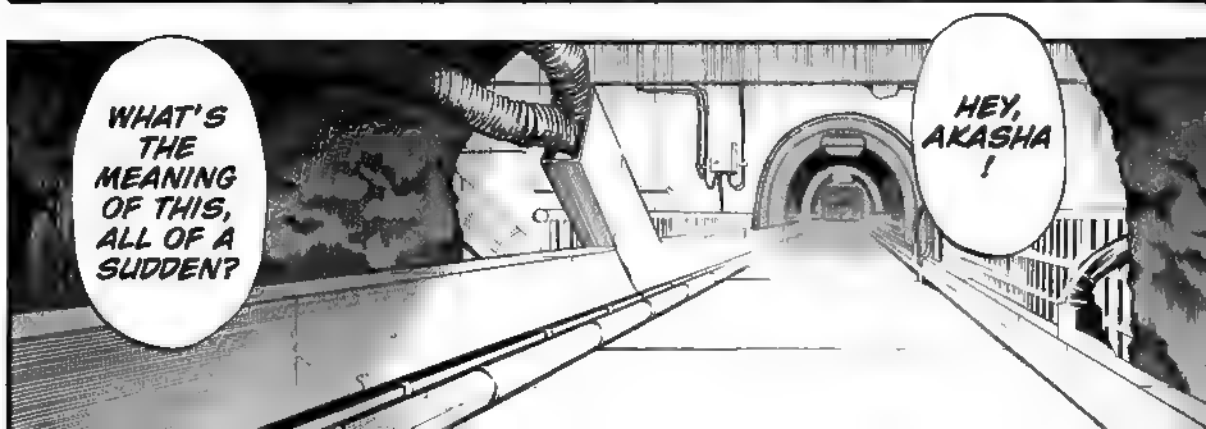
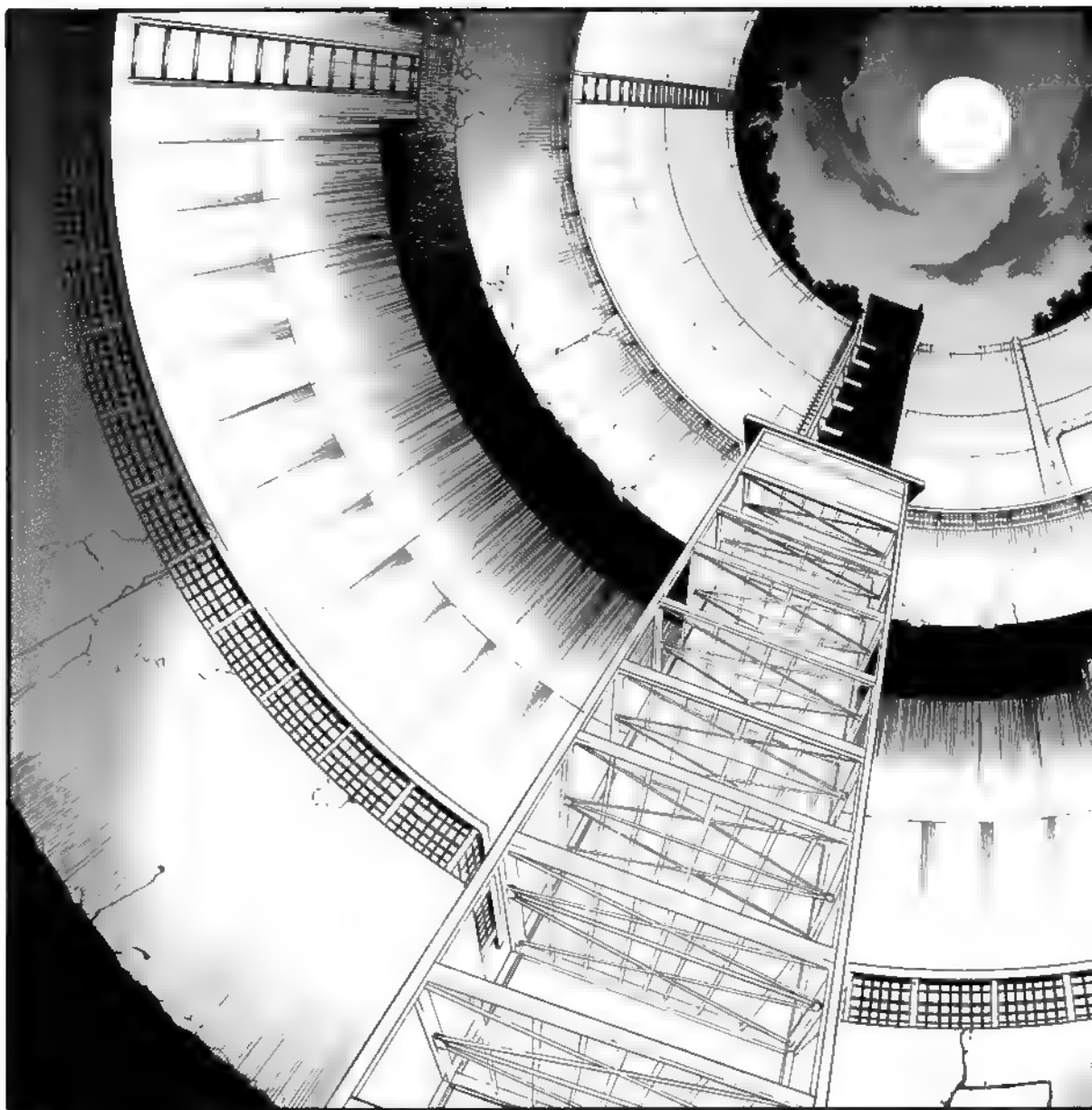
IT'S LIKELY



FROM THEN ON, THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER VACATION WILL BE DEDICATED TO TRAINING.

TODAY IS JULY 18TH..... PREPARATIONS WILL BE COMPLETE TWO DAYS FROM NOW...

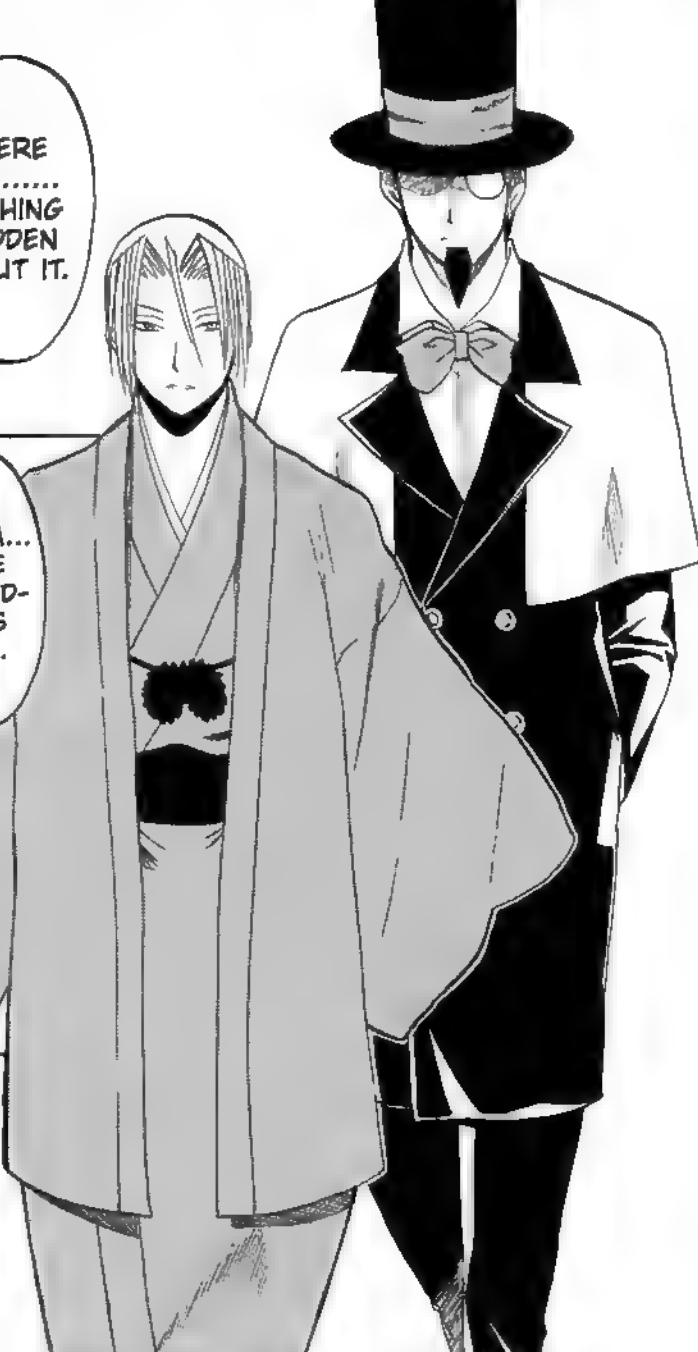
STEP





I'VE
ALREADY
RECEIVED
CONFIRMATION
FROM ALL THE
FOUNDERS
AND
CASKET-
BEARERS.

THERE
IS.....
NOTHING
SUDDEN
ABOUT IT.

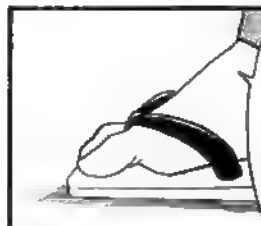


WHOA...
THE
FOUND-
ERS
.....

YOU
MEAN THE
CASKET-
BEARERS
WITH
ESPECIALLY
STRONG
CURSES
.....?



THE
TOP
DOGS
OF THE
UNCLEAN
BUNCH?



WHAT
THEY
DESIRE
WILL
COME TO
PASS.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



SHUDDER



...WE
WILL
REVIVE
THE
KING
!!



TONIGHT
...



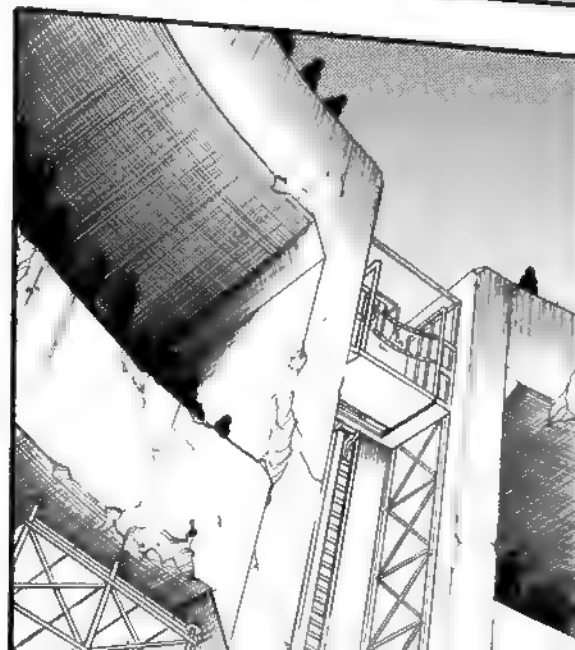
AKA-SHA.

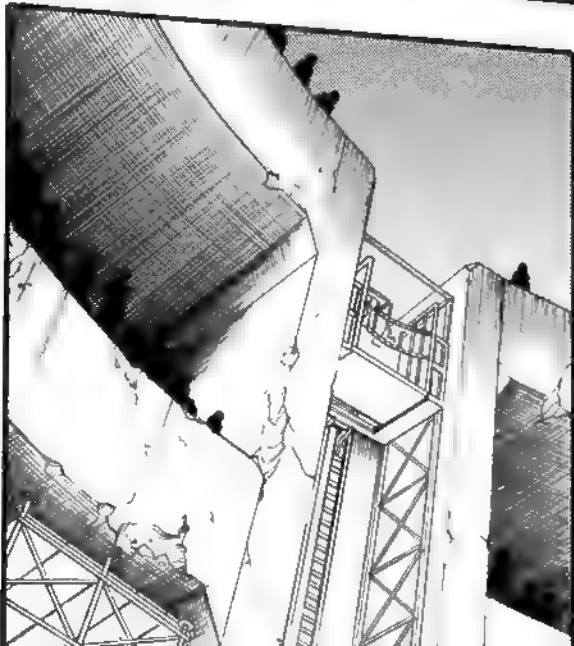
STEP

THIS IS
TRULY.....
PURGATORY
ON EARTH.

ALL
THESE
WRAITHS
MUST HAVE
SENSED
THE RITUAL
ATMOSPHERE
AND
GATHERED
.....

WHOOAAA.
INCREDI-
BLE...







AKA-SHA.

STEP



THIS IS
TRULY.....
PURGATORY
ON EARTH.



WHOOAAA.
INCREDI-
BLE...

ALL
THESE
WRAITHS
MUST HAVE
SENSED
THE RITUAL
ATMOSPHERE
AND
GATHERED
.....



CAN YOU
REALLY
GET THIS
RITUAL
DONE
TONIGHT?



YES.



THEY'RE
ALL HERE.
THE
FOUNDERS
AND THE
CASKETS.

JUST
LIKE
YOU
ASKED.



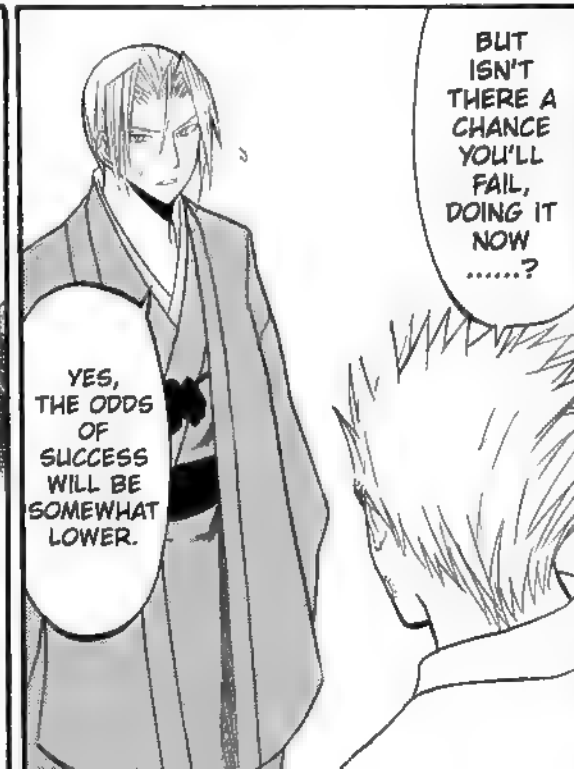
...THAT
EVEN THE
SLIGHTEST
INTER-
RUPTION
BY THEM
WOULD
CAUSE IT
TO FAIL.

THIS
RITUAL
REQUIRES
INTENSE
FOCUS.
SO MUCH
SO.....

I
ASSUME...
THAT THE
KOUJON SECT
WILL EXPECT US
TO REVIVE THE
KING WHEN THE
STARS ARE MOST
EFFECTIVELY
ALIGNED.



HOWEVER...
THAT'S
WHAT THE
FOUNDERS
AND CASKET-
BEARERS ARE
FOR.



YES,
THE ODDS
OF
SUCCESS
WILL BE
SOMEWHAT
LOWER.

BUT
ISN'T
THERE A
CHANCE
YOU'LL
FAIL,
DOING IT
NOW
.....?



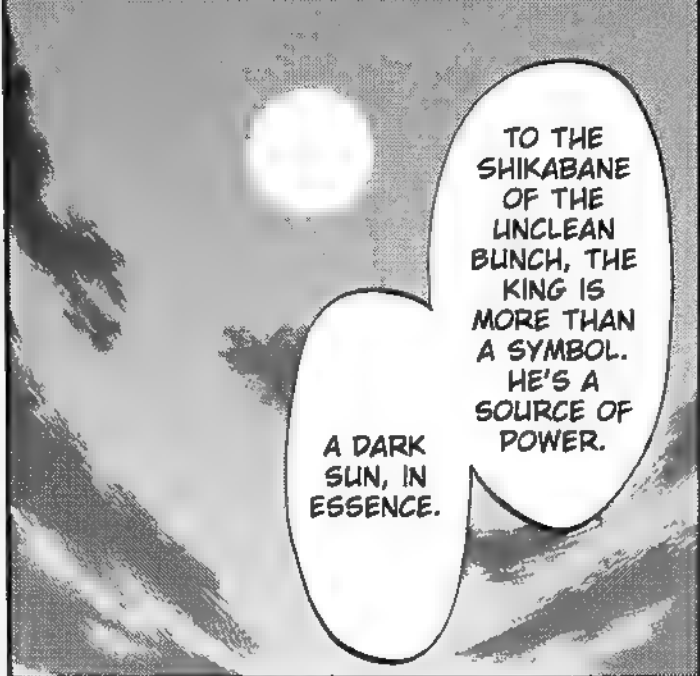
BUT
RIGHT
NOW,
THEY'RE
STILL
IN THE
PLANNING
STAGE.

THAT'S
WHY THIS
IS OUR
BEST
CHANCE
TO REVIVE
THE KING.



EVEN IF HE
IS REVIVED
IMPERFECTLY
.....

.....
...HIS FULL
STRENGTH
CAN BE
RECOVERED
AT A LATER
TIME.



A DARK
SUN, IN
ESSENCE.

TO THE
SHIKABANE
OF THE
UNCLEAN
BUNCH, THE
KING IS
MORE THAN
A SYMBOL.
HE'S A
SOURCE OF
POWER.



...IS
WHAT
MATTERS
MOST
NOW.

BRINGING
THE KING
INTO THIS
WORLD...



IF
THINGS
GO
SOUTH
AND YOU
FAIL...

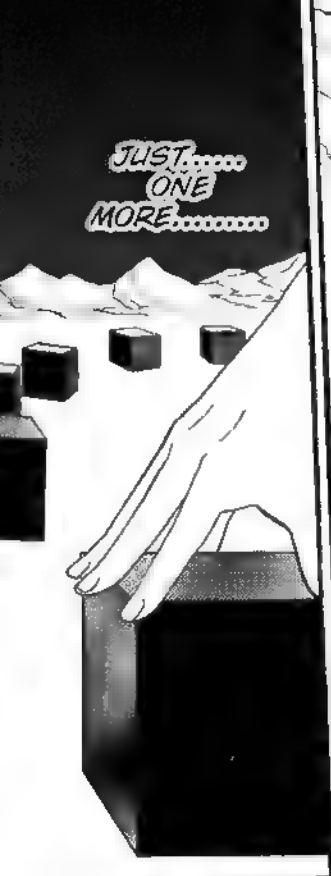
BUT
LISTEN,
AKASHA
.....

WELL...
CAN'T
ARGUE
WITH YOU
THERE.

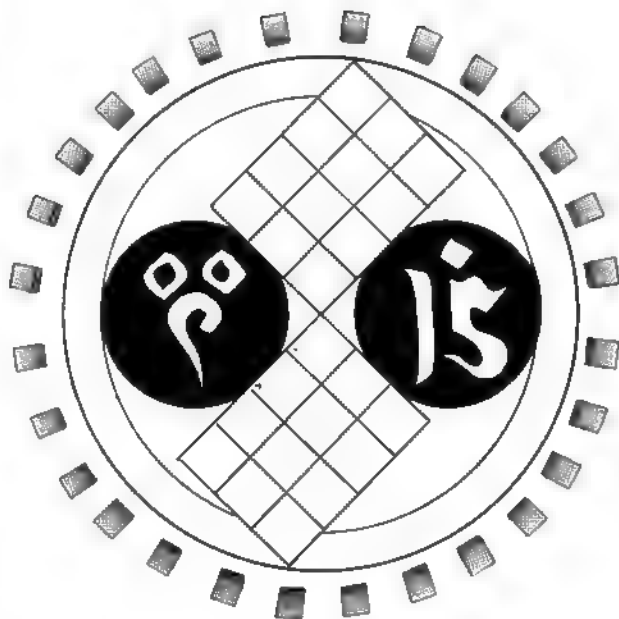
HMPH
.....

STEP

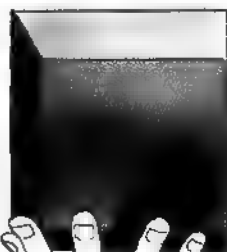




JUST.....
ONE
MORE.....



EACH
CONTAINS
THE FINAL
BLOOD OF
108 PEOPLE.
THEIR
CURSE-
ENHANCERS
WILL SERVE
AS THE
RITUAL'S
CATALYSTS.



THAT
MAKES ALL
TWENTY-
EIGHT
CASKETS
.....

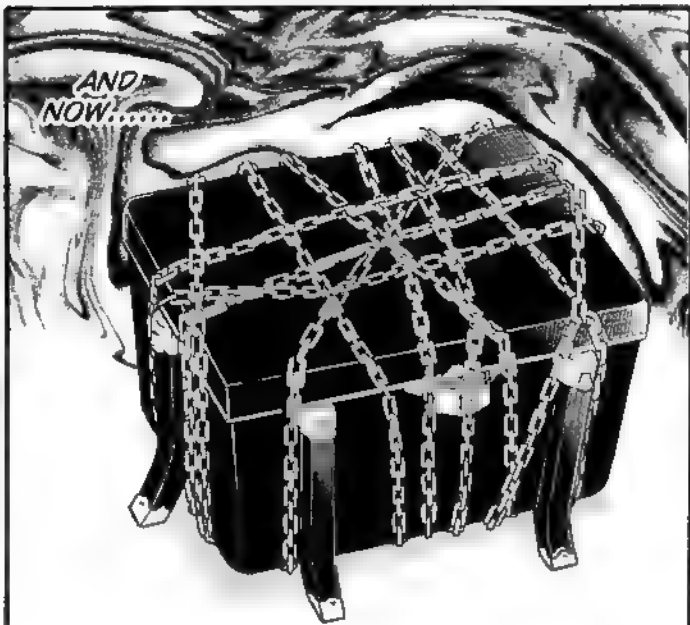


FSSSHHH

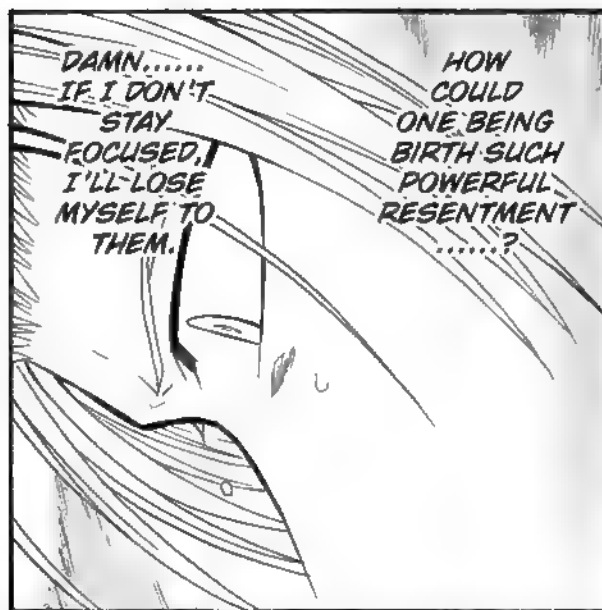
TCH.



CRACK



AND
NOW.....



DAMN.....
IF I DON'T
STAY
FOCUSED,
I'LL LOSE
MYSELF TO
THEM.

HOW
COULD
ONE BEING
BIRTH SUCH
POWERFUL
RESENTMENT
.....?



NO
MATTER
HOW MANY
TIMES I
LAY EYES
ON THEM, I
ALWAYS GET
THE CHILLS
.....

THE KING
HIMSELF IMBUE
THESE WITH HIS
DESIRES AS HE
WROTE THEM, AND
HE SULLIED THEM
WITH HIS DESPAIR
AS HE CURSED
THEM. THE FIVE
GREAT MAHAYANA
SUTRAS.



THE OTHER
FOUNDERS.

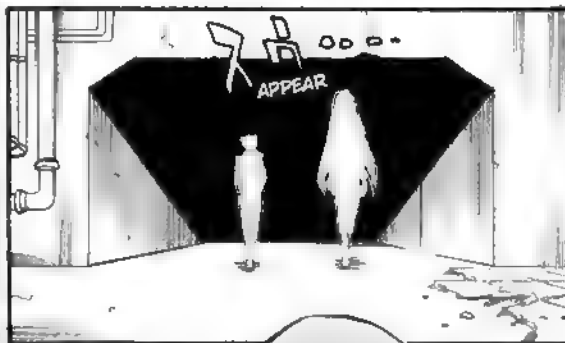
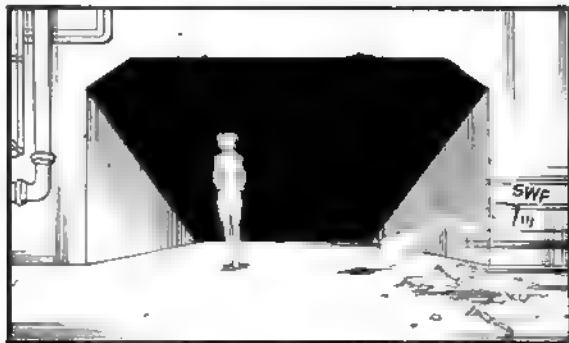
THEY'RE
HERE.



GIMME
THAT,
AKASHA.
STOP
SPACING
OUT.

THE TOP FIVE
MEMBERS OF THE
UNCLEAN BUNCH,
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO
STAND AGAINST THE
CURSE OF THE MAHAYANA
SUTRAS AND DONATE
THEIR STRENGTH TO
THE RITUAL.

THE
FOUNDERS
.....

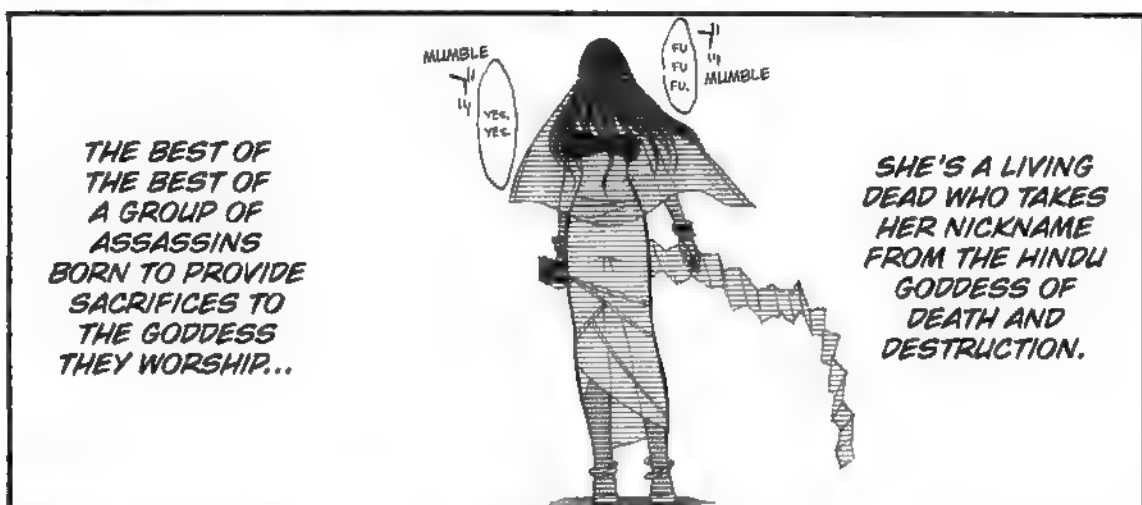


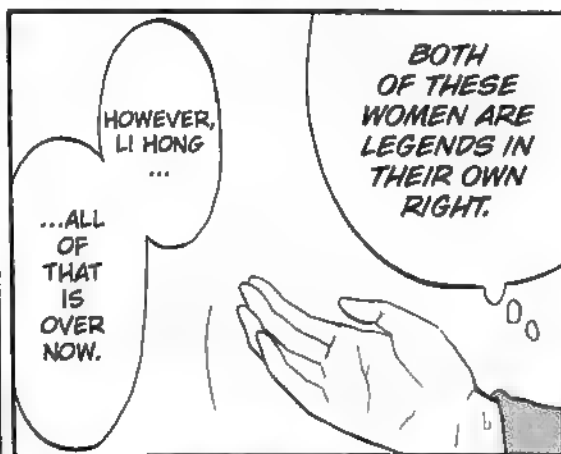
AKASHA.
ROGERE.

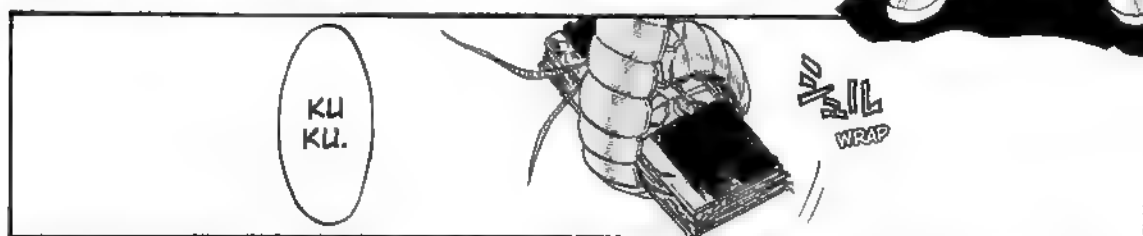
NAMASKAR.

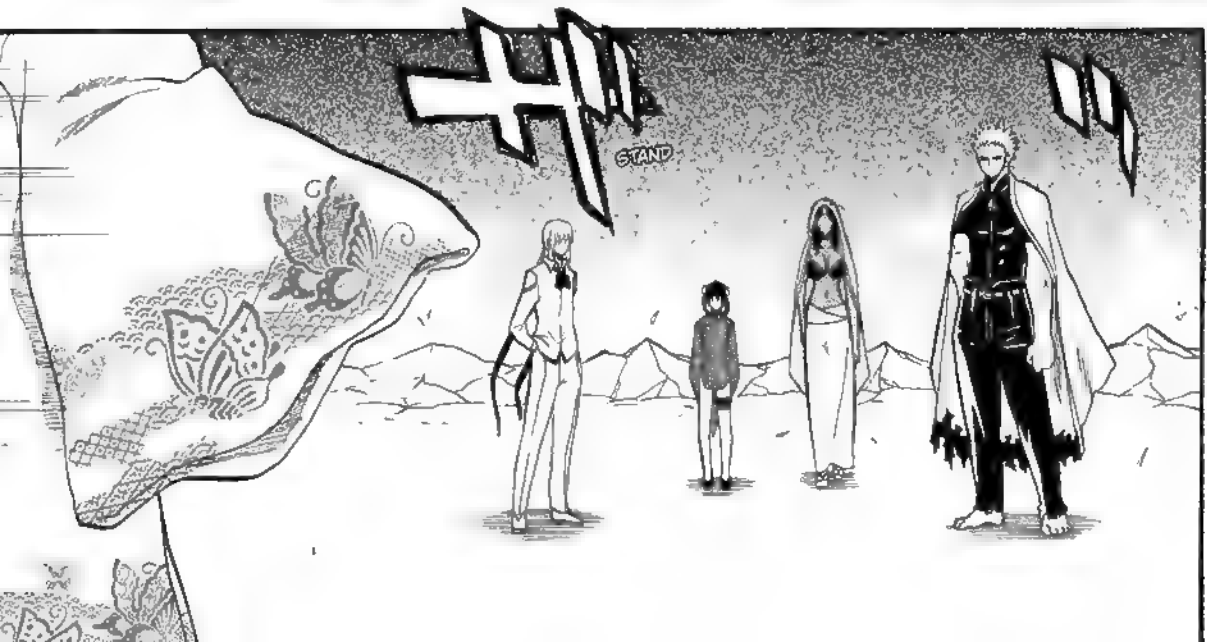
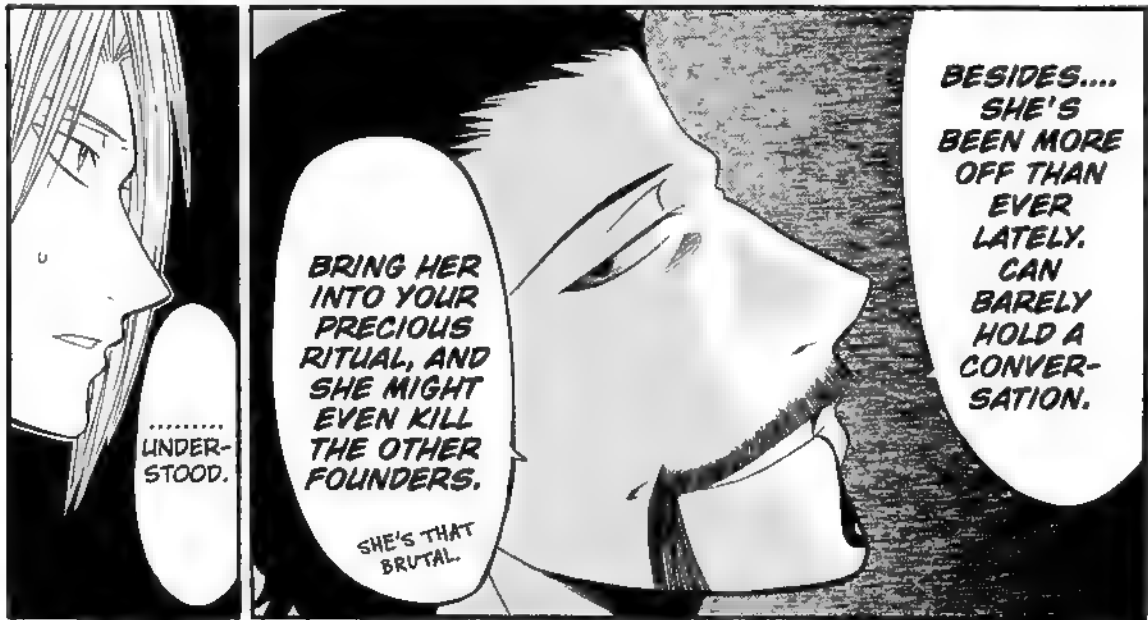
THIS
IS THE
SUTRA,
THEN?

APPEAR











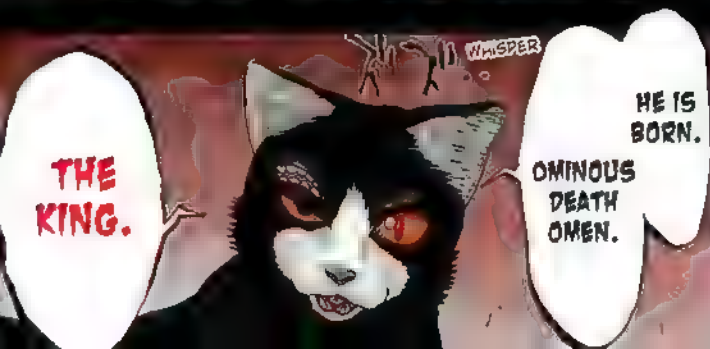


IT WAS A NEW MOON THE NIGHT BIG BRO DIED.
THE DAY I KNEW MY LIFE WOULD CHANGE FOREVER.....



EH?

DEATH 21:
KING OF THE DEAD



THE
KING.

HE IS
BORN.
OMINOUS
DEATH
OMEN.



DEATH 21: KING OF THE DEAD



DEATH 21: KING OF THE DEAD



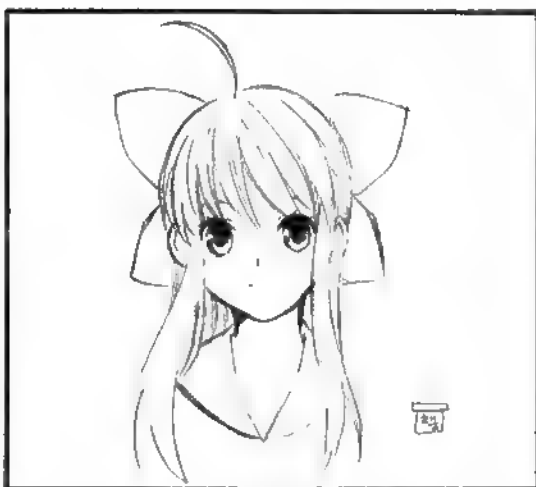


...I
LEARNED
THAT THE
WORLD
WAS
BROKEN.

AS USUAL!!! SKETCH-FROM- MEMORY CHAMPIONSHIP!!

zzz....

(ITSUKI
EDITION)



THANKS EVERYONE!!





PHOOM

LET
THE RITUAL
COMMENCE.

NOW
THEN.



VERY WELL.

ROGERE-SAN. PLEASE PLACE THE GOD-KILLER IN POSITION.



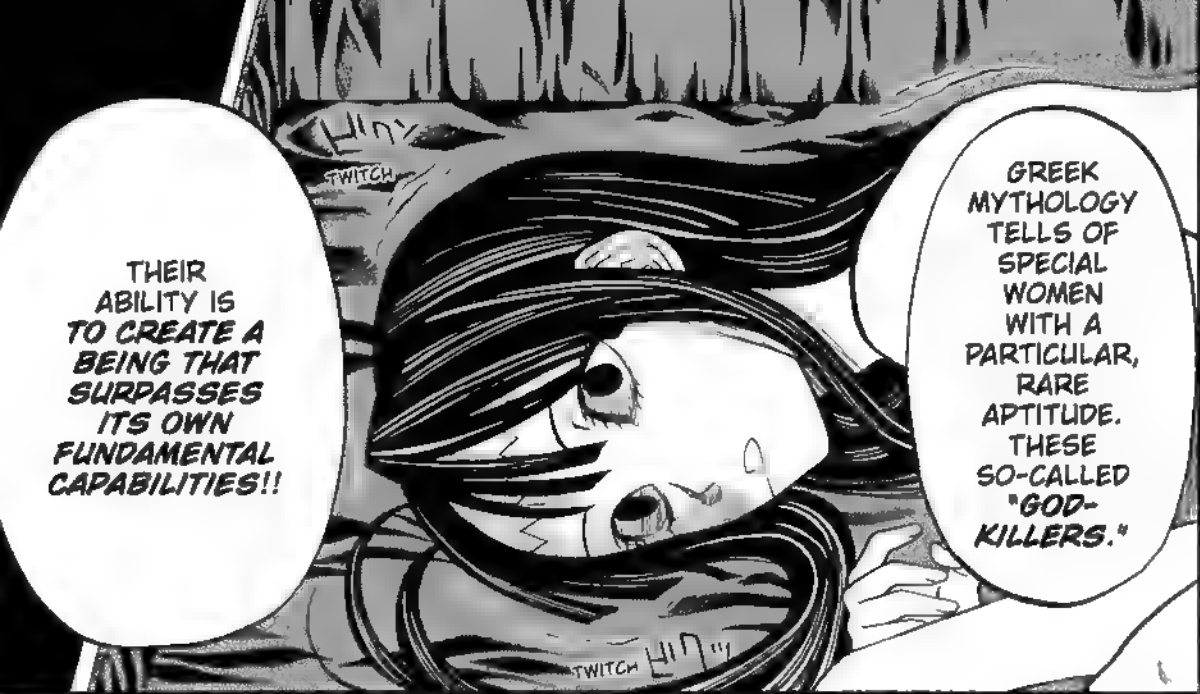
IN ORDER TO USE HER, I GRAFTED ON CAREFULLY-SELECTED PARTS FROM ABOUT TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE.

A FINE BIT OF CARVING...

INDEED.

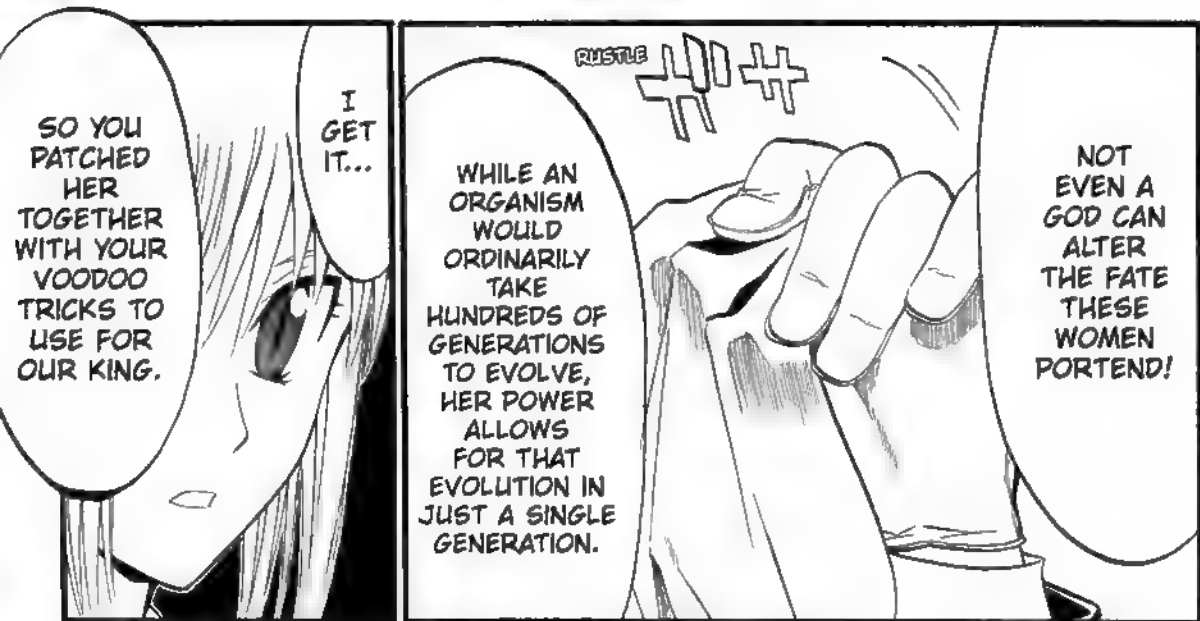
ARE THOSE THE OLD BONES WE BROUGHT OVER?

EHH.....



THEIR
ABILITY IS
TO CREATE A
BEING THAT
SURPASSES
ITS OWN
FUNDAMENTAL
CAPABILITIES!!

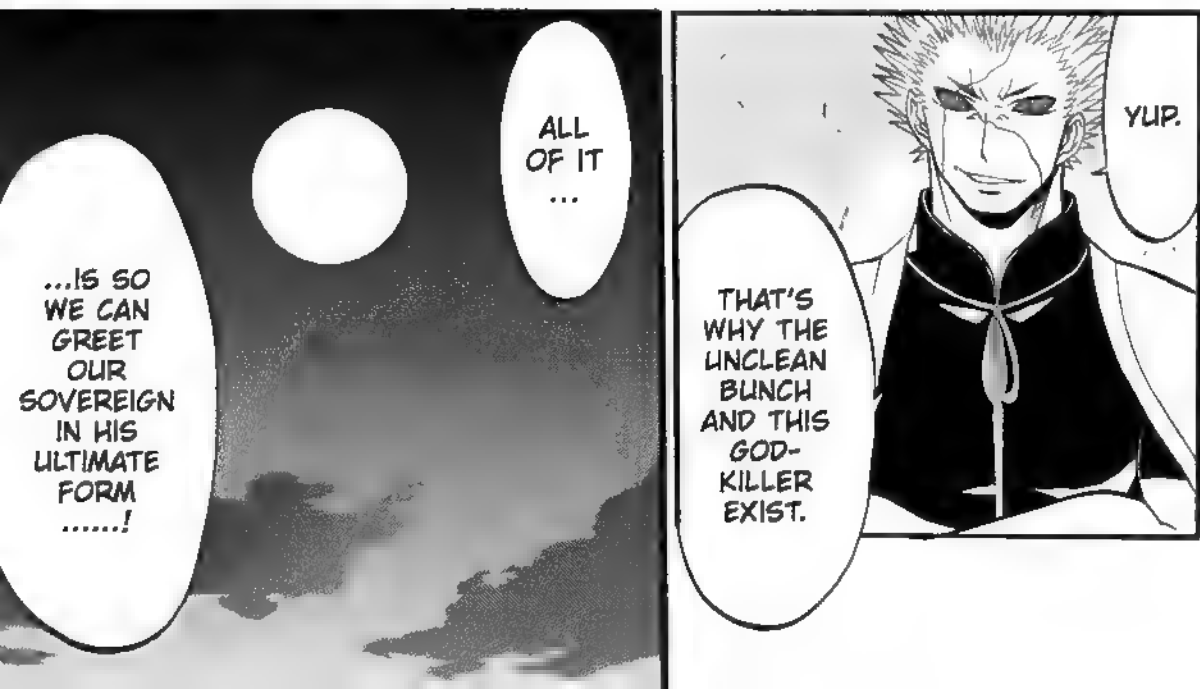
GREEK
MYTHOLOGY
TELLS OF
SPECIAL
WOMEN
WITH A
PARTICULAR,
RARE
APTITUDE.
THESE
SO-CALLED
"GOD-
KILLERS."



I
GET
IT...

WHILE AN
ORGANISM
WOULD
ORDINARILY
TAKE
HUNDREDS OF
GENERATIONS
TO EVOLVE,
HER POWER
ALLOWS
FOR THAT
EVOLUTION IN
JUST A SINGLE
GENERATION.

NOT
EVEN A
GOD CAN
ALTER
THE FATE
THESE
WOMEN
PORTEND!



YUP.

THAT'S
WHY THE
UNCLEAN
BUNCH
AND THIS
GOD-
KILLER
EXIST.

ALL
OF IT
...

...IS SO
WE CAN
GREET
OUR
SOVEREIGN
IN HIS
ULTIMATE
FORM
.....!





FULFILL
OUR
WISHES.

OH,
GREAT
FEARED
ONE.

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH



YE OF
CRUELTY.

BURST

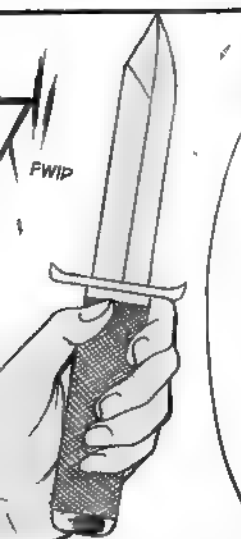
YE OF
CALAMITY.

BURST

FWOOSH

YE
OF THE
VOID.

BURST



FWID



...WE
CALL
UPON
YOU, OUR
LORD AND
MASTER.

TO DESTROY
OUR SWORN
ENEMIES...

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH



WE
OF THE
UNCLEAN
BUNCH...



...WITH OUR
KING'S CURSE
IN HAND...



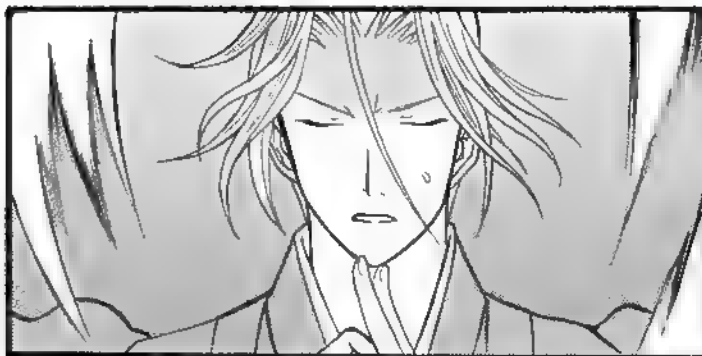
...END
ALL OUR
TROUBLES.



NONE
SHALL
DETHRONE
THE KING...



...AND
THE KING
SHANT
SLAY HIS
FLOCK.

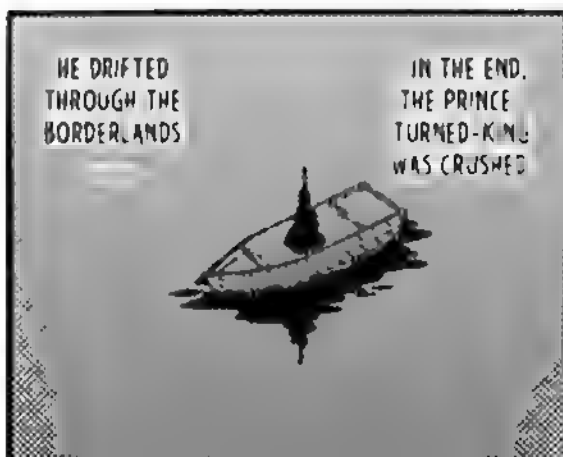
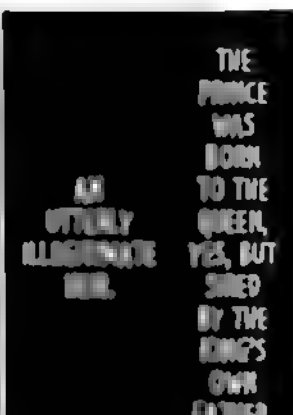
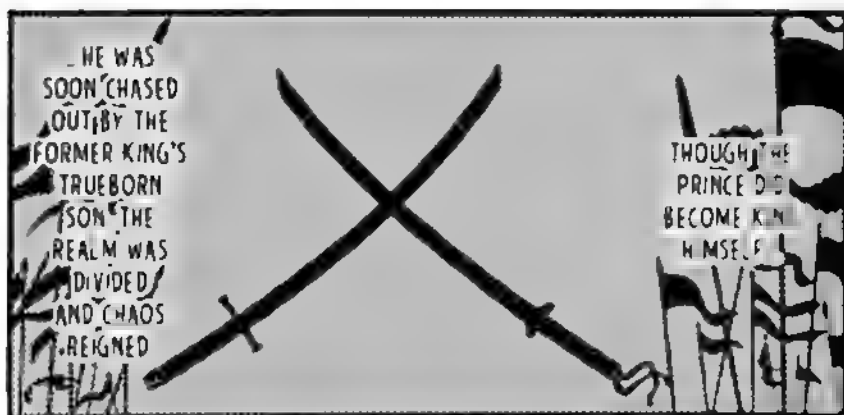
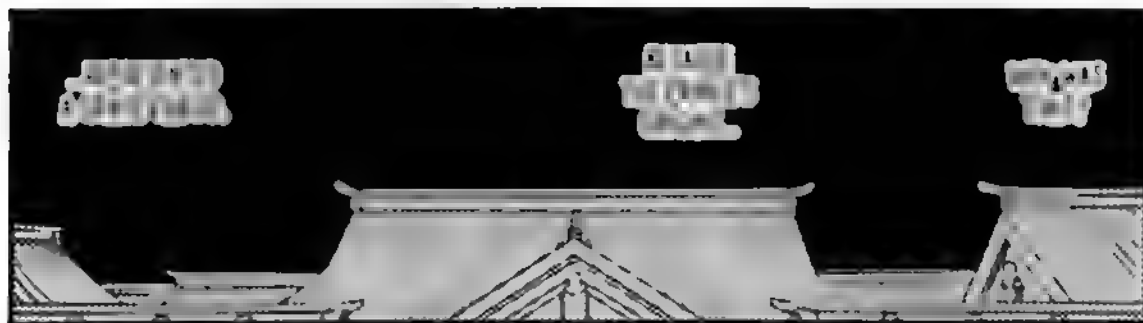


LONG AGO.

...THIS
LEGEND
WAS
BORN

...AND.....
IN THE VERY
AGE OF THE
GODS, WHEN
THIS LAND
STILL HAD A
KING...

IN AN AGE
WHEN KINGS
WERE AS
GODS.....





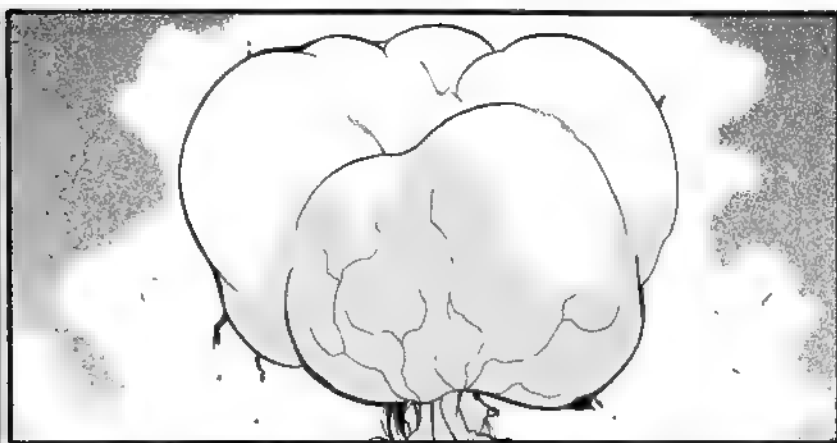
HIS TEXTS
WERE DENIED
ENTRY INTO
THE CAPITAL
AND RETURNED
TO HIM....

THOUGH HE
GRIEVED FOR HIS
COUNTRY, THE
KING'S EFFORTS
AT ATONEMENT
WERE LIKENED
TO CURSES BY
THE PEOPLE.

...FELT REMORSE.
HE OUGHT TO HAVE
ACTED AS A PROPER
SOVEREIGN, BUT HIS
PERSONAL GRUDGES
HAD LED THE COUNTRY
INTO WAR. SO AS TO
ATTAIN ENLIGHTENMENT
IN THE NEXT WORLD,
HE COPIED THE "FIVE
GREAT MAHAYANA
SUTRAS" IN HIS OWN
HAND AND SENT THEM
TO THE CAPITAL.....



THIS
NOW
EXILED
KING...



THE
RETURNED
SUTRAS IN HAND,
HE CHanneled
ALL HIS MALICE
INTO HIS OWN
BLOOD, WITH
WHICH HE
CURSED THE
DOCUMENTS.

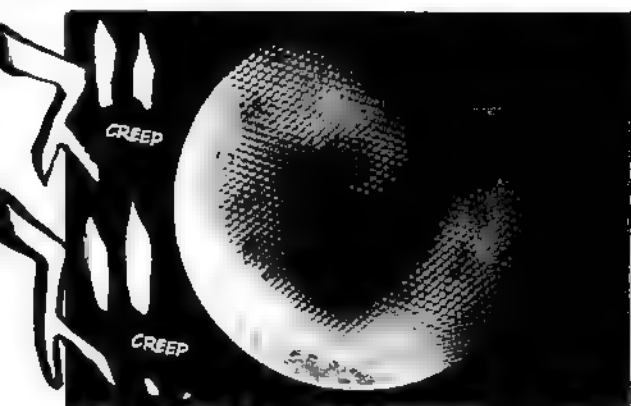
HE DESPAIRED
OVER HIS FURY,
HIS REGRETS, HIS
GRUDGES, HIS
CONVICTIONS, HIS
GRIEF, AND HIS
RESENTMENT.

THE KING
WAS FILLED
WITH RAGE
FOR HIS
DESTINY,
HIS KARMA,
AND HIS
HERITAGE.



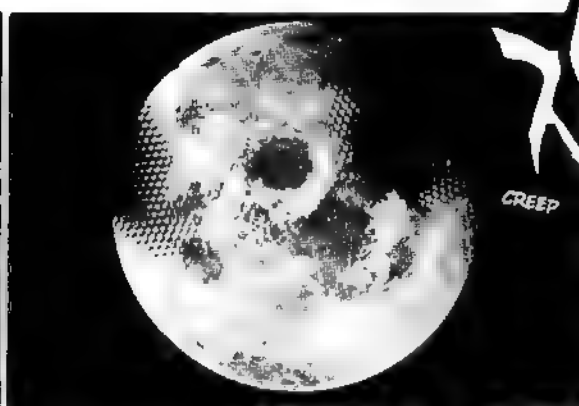
...HE LET
HIMSELF
AND HIS
SUTRAS
FALL TO
HERESY.

IN ORDER
TO BECOME
A DEMON
KING
HIMSELF



CREEP

CREEP



CREEP



OHH

.....



RIP

RIP

THUD

THE
MOON...
IT'S
...

...
DISAP-
PEARING
.....

TEAR

BURST



THE
MOON
.....!

.....

ROOM



THIS
PRESSURE...
IT'S AS IF
MY CHEST
IS BEING
CRUSHED AT
THE BOTTOM
OF THE SEA
.....!

...SO
HEAVY.

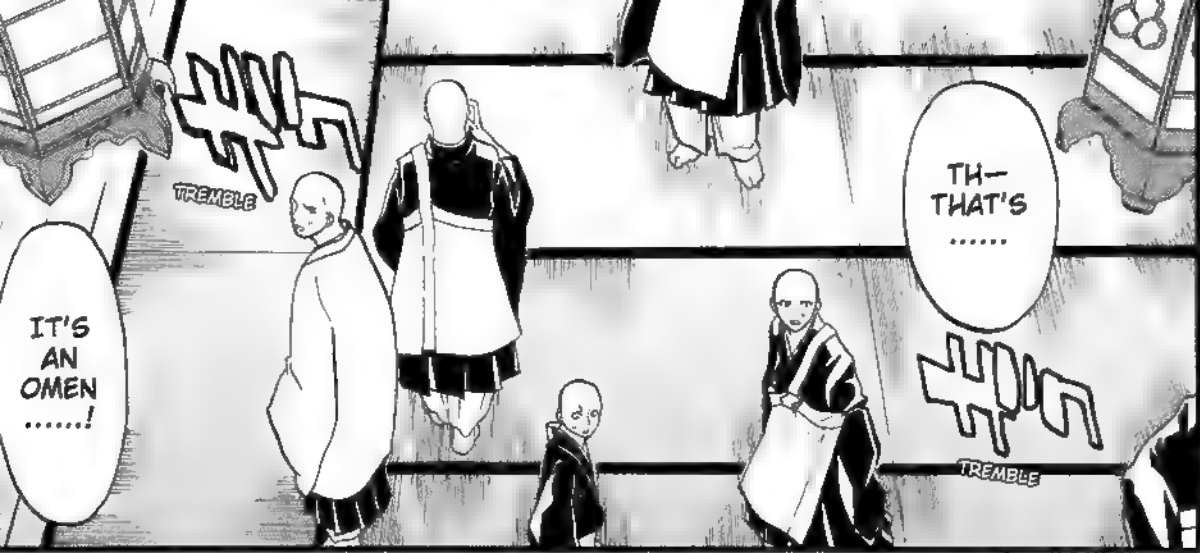


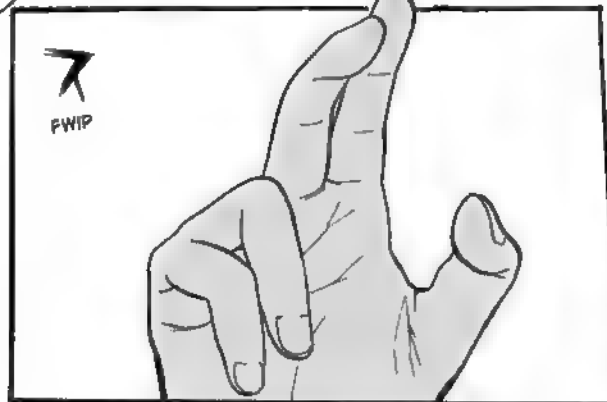
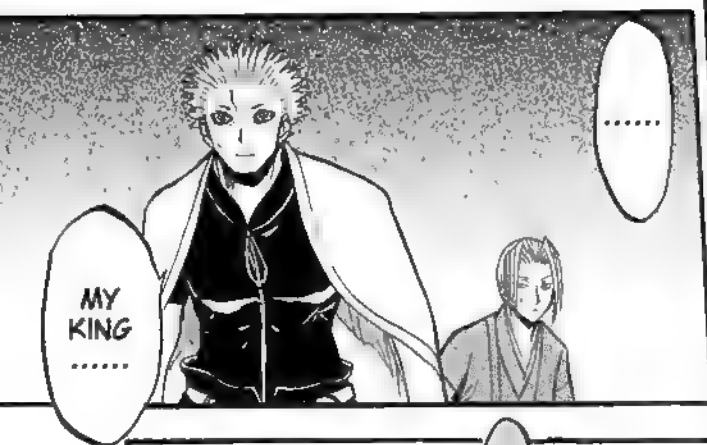
BUT
THIS
IS.....

IT
CAN'T
BE!

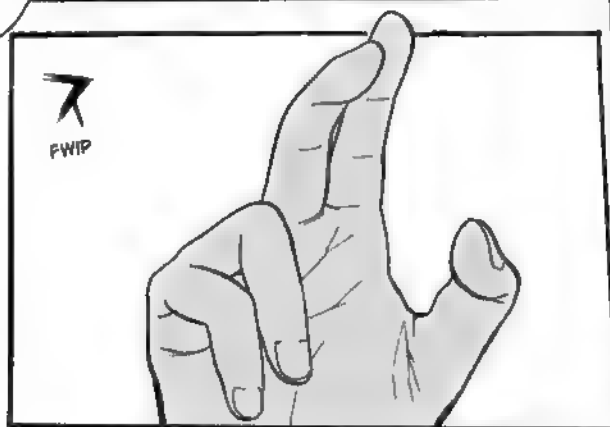
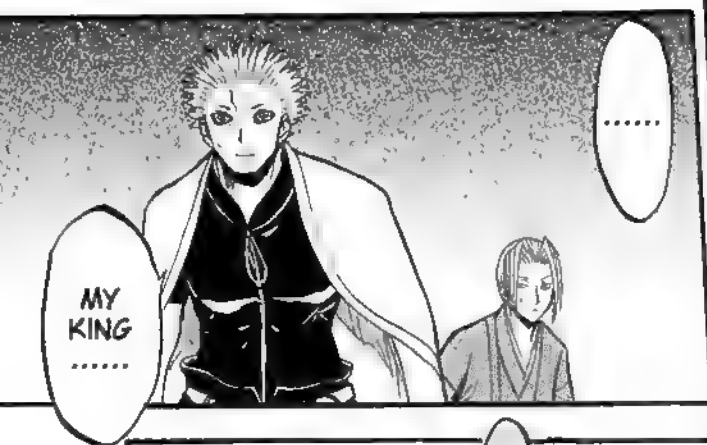
IT'S
TOO
SOON
.....

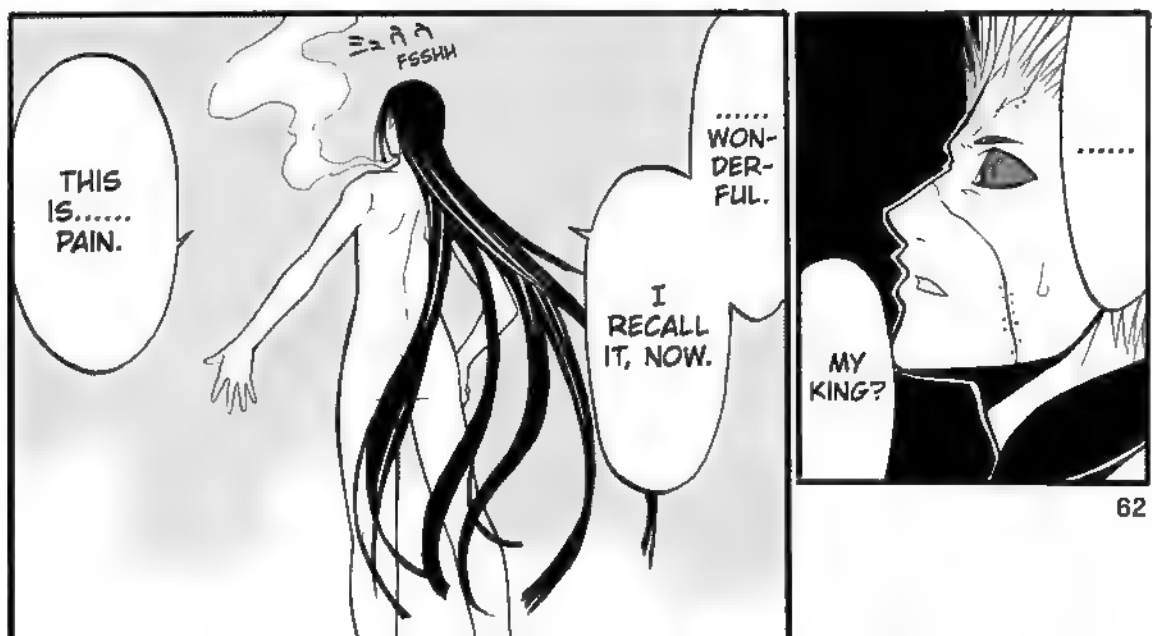
SOUJOU-
SAMA
.....!













YES.
YOUR HIGHNESS'S FIRST RETAINER, CHINZEI HACHIROU TAME TOMO.

ARE YOU..... TAME TOMO?



YES.

LONG HAVE I BEEN GONE, BUT NOW I MANIFEST IN THIS WORLD ONCE MORE.



IT MOVES ME DEEPLY THAT I WOULD HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO BEAR WITNESS TO YOUR HIGHNESS'S COUNTEenance ONCE MORE.

I HAVE LONGED FOR THIS DAY, EVER SINCE I VOWED TO CONCEAL MY IDENTITY.



.....HOW- EVER.

KU KU.



YOUR WORDS HONOR ME.

FOR YOUR 850 YEARS OF LOYALTY ...

...I COMMEND YOU.

NOT LIKE
I'M LOYAL
TO HIM OR
ANYTHING,
THOUGH.

WHY
WOULD I
BE?

HEH.

THESE
INDIVIDUALS
WERE
ESSENTIAL
TO YOUR
HIGHNESS'S
REVIVAL
.....

YES.....
UM, I AM
SORRY.

IT
APPEARS
I'VE
GAINED A
NUMBER OF
ECCENTRIC
FOLLOWERS
DURING
MY TIME
AWAY.

WHOA, HE WAS
ALL NAKED.
GUESS THAT'S
JUST HOW
KINGS ARE...(?)

EVEN IF
SOME ARE
HERE NOT
OUT OF
LOYALTY.

I
CARE NOT
ABOUT THE
PARTICULARS
SO LONG AS
THEY ARE
STRONG.

IT
MATTERS
NOT.

LEER
=A

!

ツ
ツ
TWITCH

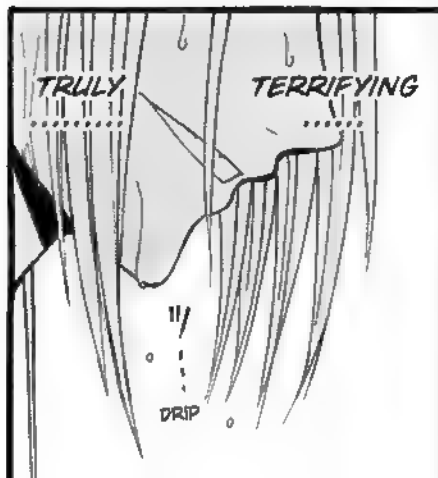
...AND
EVEN MY
FATE.....
I FORGIVE
ALL.

THE
REGRET
AND LONE-
LINESS I
FELT AS A
HUMAN
...

TRAITORS
AND
ENEMIES
ALIKE.

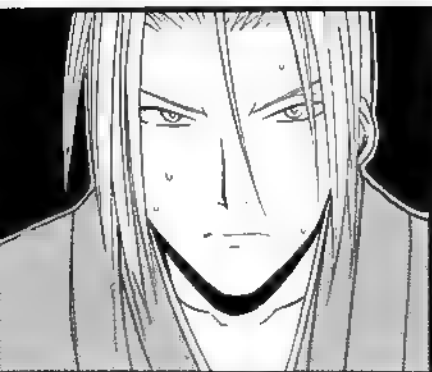
I
FORGIVE
ALL.





JUST
THINKING OF
WHAT COMES
NEXT MAKES
ME WANT
TO FLEE IN
FEAR.....!

IT'S ALL
THE MORE
CLEAR
IN-PERSON.....
THIS IS THE
KING OF ALL
SHIKABANE.
.....DAMN.....
TRULY
TERRIFYING
.....

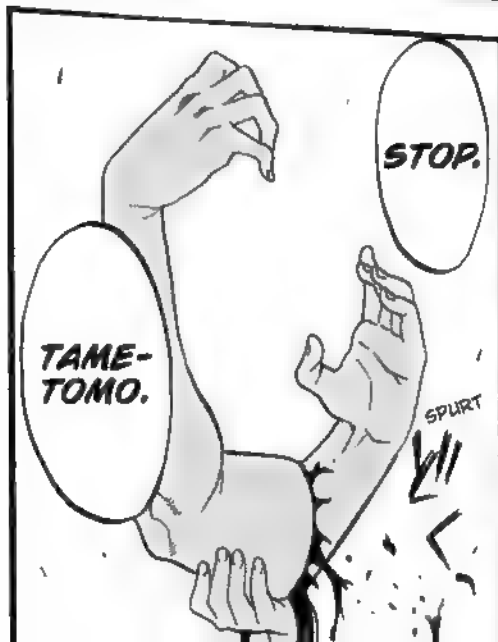




MY BODY DEGRADES WHEN I ATTEMPT TO EMERGE.





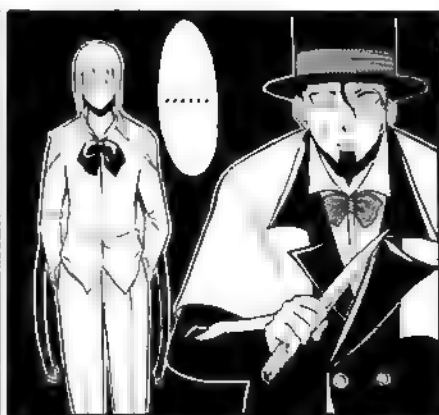




I
FORGIVE
HIM.



.....A
SPECIAL
ABILITY?
WHAT...
WAS
THAT?

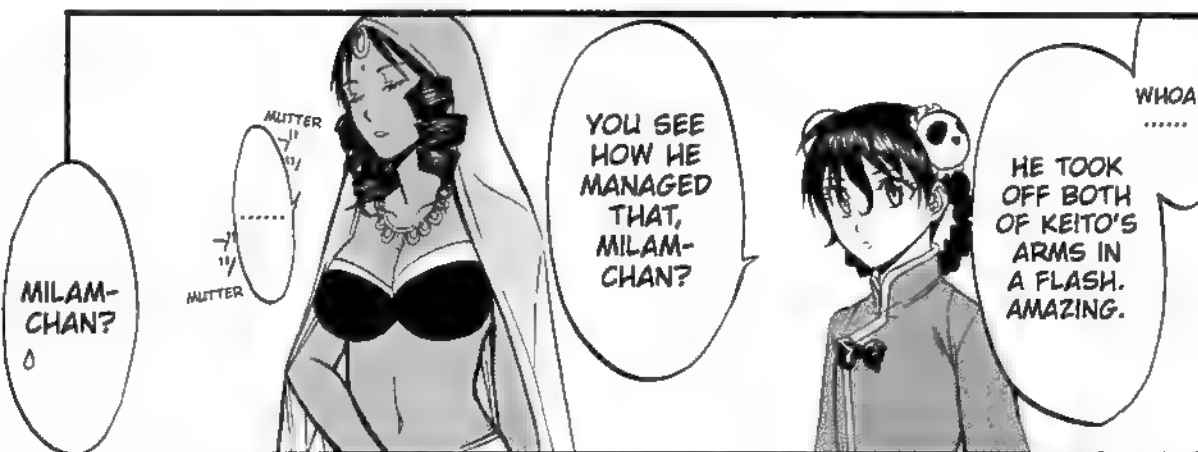


UNDER...
STOOD.

GWAN

UGH...
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.

SPLURT



MILAM-
CHAN?

MUTTER
.....
MUTTER

YOU SEE
HOW HE
MANAGED
THAT,
MILAM-
CHAN?



WHOA
.....

HE TOOK
OFF BOTH
OF KEITO'S
ARMS IN
A FLASH.
AMAZING.



GLAD
HE'S
ON OUR
SIDE.

.....
HAMPH.

THAT'S
THE
GREATEST,
STRONGEST
KING FOR
YA.



MUTTER
.....
MUTTER

.....
NO, LI
HONG.



SMALL
THOUGH
MY PRISON
IS NOW,
YOU HAVE
PLACED
GREAT
IMPORTANCE
ON MAKING
ME
PERFECT,
NO?

HOW-
EVER
...

BURST



YOU
KNEW
THAT THE
STARS
WERE NOT
OPTIMALLY
ALIGNED
FOR MY
REVIVAL.

CRACK

HI

MONK.

SHATTER



IT IS
AS YOU
SAY.....

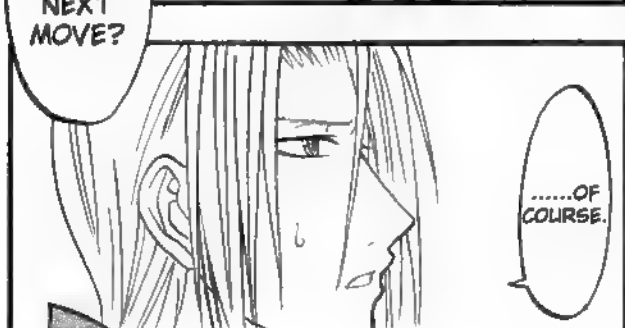


Y-
YES.
YES,
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.

COFF
...



VERY
WELL.
.....I
FORGIVE
YOU.



WHAT
IS YOUR
NEXT
MOVE?

.....OF
COURSE.



I.....
HAVE
DEDICATED
MY
EFFORTS
TO THAT
END.

.....
ULTIMATELY,
I INTEND
TO
PERFECT
BOTH YOUR
HIGHNESS
AND THE
LAND OF
THE DEAD.



THIS IS BECAUSE YOUR HIGHNESS'S BODY REQUIRES AN ATMOSPHERE RICH WITH REGRET AND DEATH.

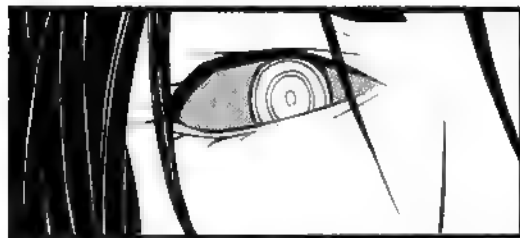
...AS OF NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS CANNOT LEAVE THIS SEAL.

MY HUMBLEST APOLOGIES, BUT...



THE LAND OF THE DEAD IS WHAT WILL COMPLETE YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS.

THAT IS TO SAY, THE LAND OF THE DEAD!



IF YOU FORESAW ALL THIS, THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND TELL US HOW YOU'RE GONNA CONSTRUCT THE LAND OF THE DEAD?

GUH ...
BUT... AKASHA. ESTABLISHING SUCH A NATION



HMPH.....SO THE UNCLEAN BUNCH'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS THIS FIRST OBJECTIVE?

YES ...
THAT'S RIGHT, LI HONG.

THE
TIME
HAS
FINALLY
COME...

AT LAST
.....

ALLOW
ME TO
EXPLAIN.

YES.....
WELL.

...BUT
TO US, SUCH
A LOCATION
HAS JUST
THE SPIRITUAL
REQUIREMENTS
WE NEED.

HUMANS
CALL THESE
PLACES
SPIRITUAL
CENTERS
OR HOLY
GROUNDS
.....

BUILDING
THE LAND
OF THE
DEAD
REQUIRES
A
POWERFUL
"TABOO
REALM."

GETTING
TO THIS
MOMENT...

THAT'S
WHAT ALL THE
SACRIFICES
HAVE BEEN
FOR.....!

HOW-
EVER!

NO...
SADLY.

AND
YOU'VE
GOT A
PLACE
LIKE
THAT?

.....
WE WILL
USE...

...IF
MANIPULATED
CORRECTLY,
CAN CREATE
A TABOO
REALM.

STRONG
SPIRITUAL
ENERGY
.....

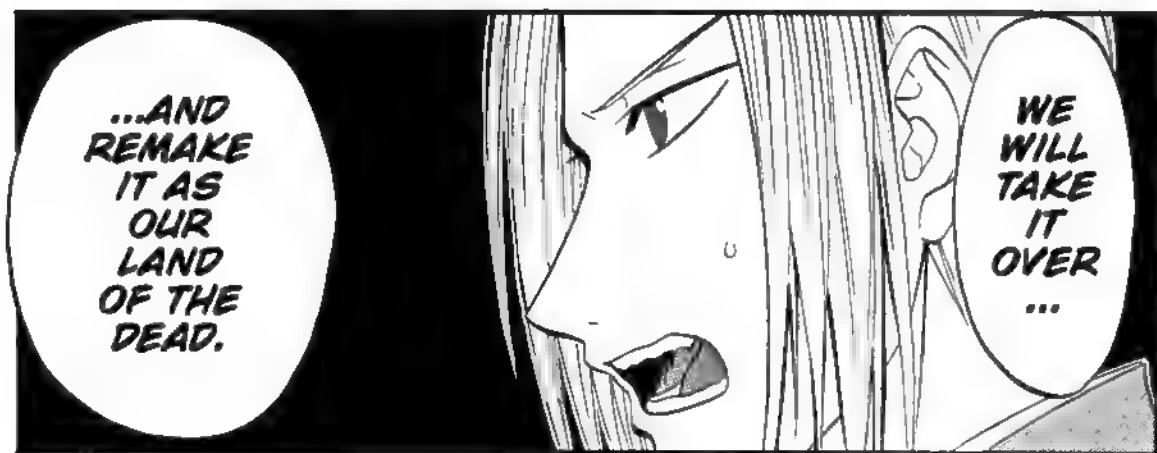
...CAN
BE
BUILT.

WHAT
WE
LACK
...



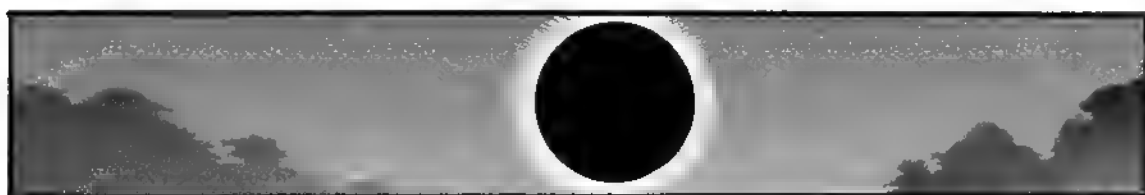
...YAMA CITY,
IN AICHI
PREFECTURE.

THE
SITE
OF THE
KOUJON
SECT'S
HEAD
TEMPLE
...



...AND
REMAKE
IT AS
OUR
LAND
OF THE
DEAD.

WE
WILL
TAKE
IT
OVER
...







...THE
WORLD
IS BEING
CORRUPTED
.....

AN
OMEN.....
THAT
SLOWLY
.....

I FEEL
IT.....

LIKE THE
WORLD JUST
SHUDDERED
.....

I FEEL
IT IN THE
WIND.....

THAT
MOON.

.....

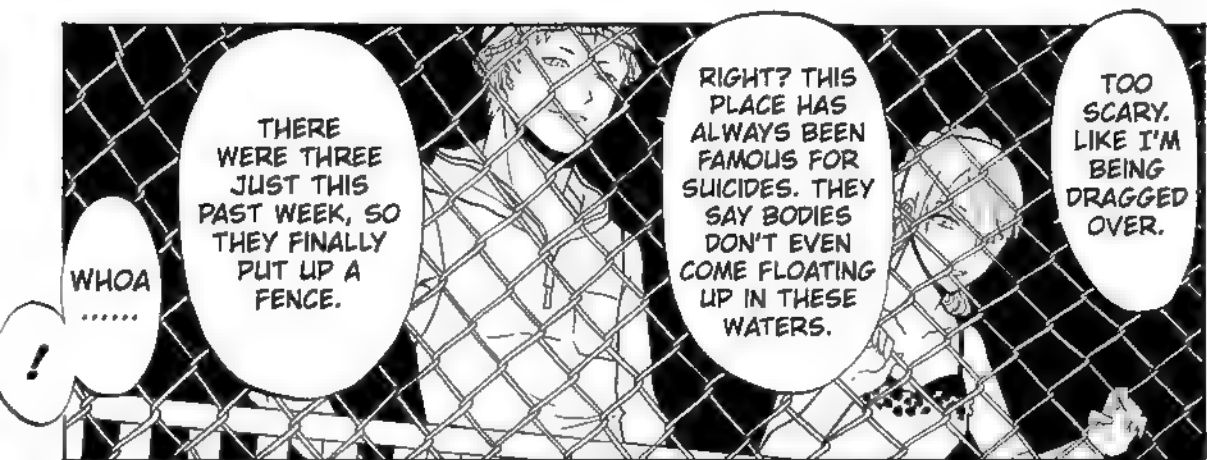
AND I'M
GUESSING
.....

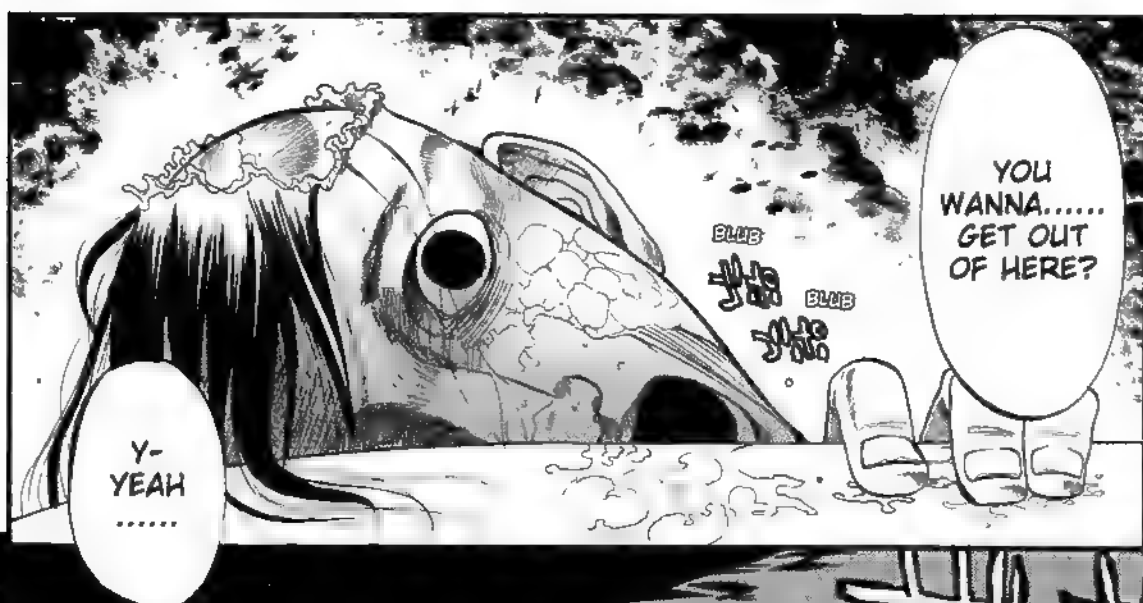
...THAT'S
BECAUSE
THE
KING'S
BEEN
REVIVED
.....

I
DON'T
LIKE
IT.



DEATH-22: FOR ALL OF CREATION





DEATH 22: FOR ALL OF CREATION

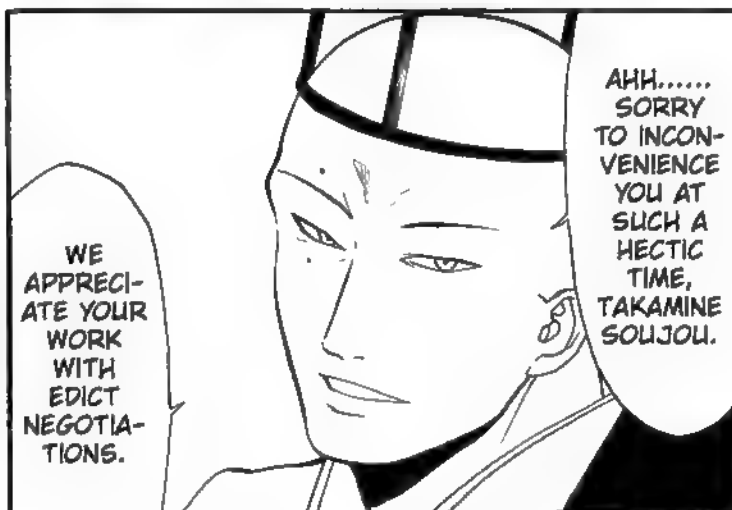






NO.....I
APOLOGIZE
FOR MY
TARDINESS,
SHIOU
GONDAL-
SOUJOU.

I
WAS BUSY
DEALING WITH
THE LATEST
INTELLIGENCE
REPORTS.



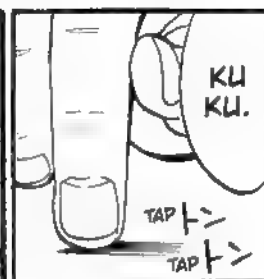
AHH.....
SORRY
TO INCON-
VENIENCE
YOU AT
SUCH A
HECTIC
TIME,
TAKAMINE
SOUJOU.

WE
APPRECI-
ATE YOUR
WORK
WITH
EDICT
NEGOTIA-
TIONS.



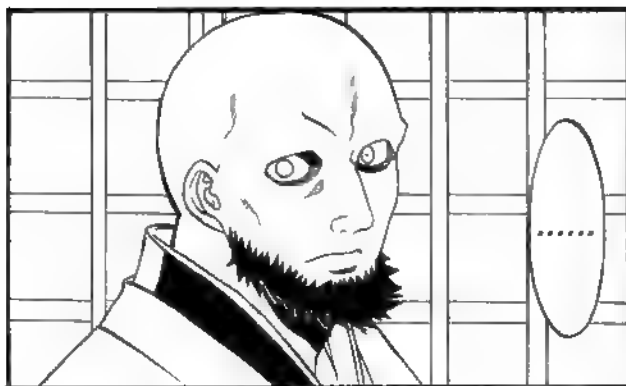
TAKAMINE.....
SEEMS LIKE
YOU DON'T GET
HOW IMPORTANT
THIS MEETING
REALLY IS.

EXCUSES
.....



KU
KU.

TAP
TAP







THERE'S NO HELPING IT WHEN THE LEADERS OF THE AUSTERITY AND ENLIGHTENMENT FACTIONS ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER

HUH?

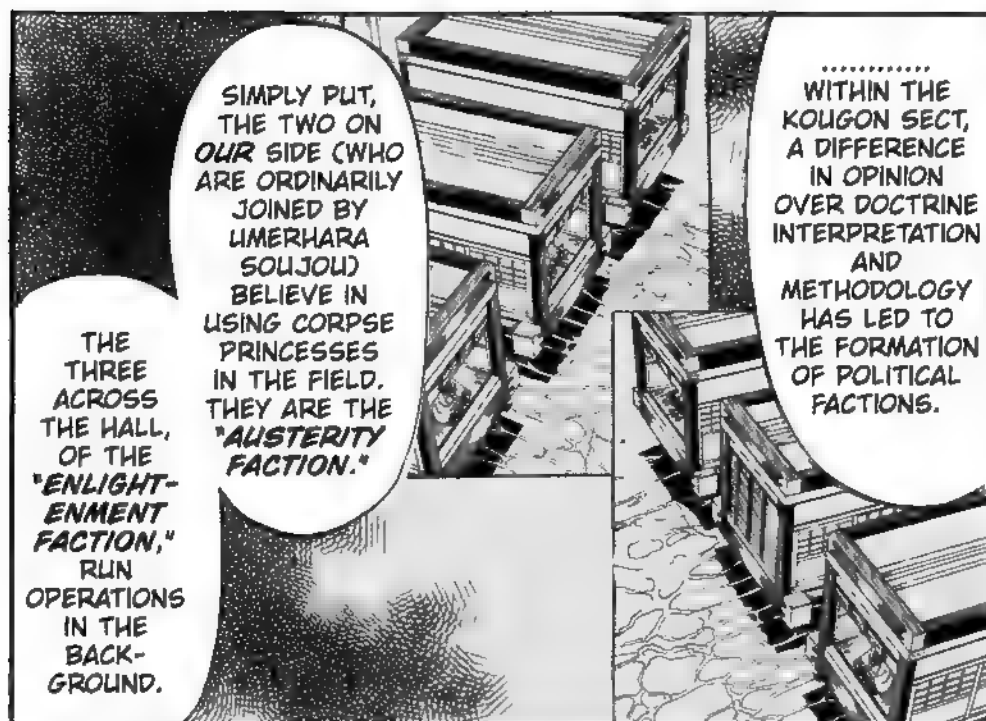


YES..... THEIR CONTEMPT FOR ONE ANOTHER IS CLEAR.

THAT'S PUTTING IT BLUNTLY

KAMIKA-SAMA

THE MOOD IN HERE IS, WELL... THE SOUJOU-SAMA ALL SEEM TO BE.....



SIMPLY PUT, THE TWO ON OUR SIDE (WHO ARE ORDINARILY JOINED BY UMERHARA SOUJOU) BELIEVE IN USING CORPSE PRINCESSES IN THE FIELD. THEY ARE THE "AUSTERITY FACTION."

THE THREE ACROSS THE HALL, OF THE "ENLIGHTENMENT FACTION," RUN OPERATIONS IN THE BACK-GROUND.

..... WITHIN THE KOUJON SECT, A DIFFERENCE IN OPINION OVER DOCTRINE INTERPRETATION AND METHODOLOGY HAS LED TO THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL FACTIONS.



.....IS THAT SO?

THIS IS ONE DOWNSIDE TO THE EXPANSION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

EACH SIDE BELIEVES IT BETTER REPRESENTS THE FAITH AND DOCTRINE OF THE KOUJON SECT, SO NEITHER WILL BUDGE IN FAVOR OF THE OTHER.

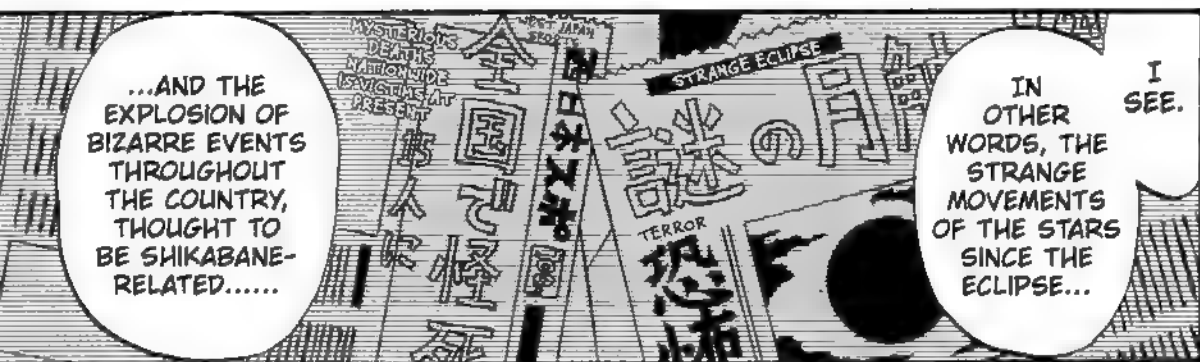
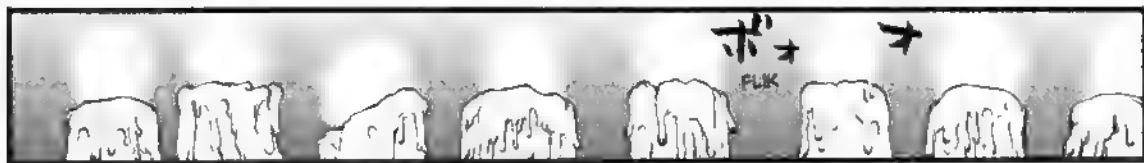


TAKAMINE-SAMA
MUST BE
EXPECTING
THAT.

BUT....
THEY CAN
COME
TOGETHER
AGAINST
AN
EXTERNAL
THREAT.

...THE
ENLIGHTENMENT
FACTION TENDS
TO DISAGREE
WITH MOST OF
WHAT HE HAS
TO SAY.....

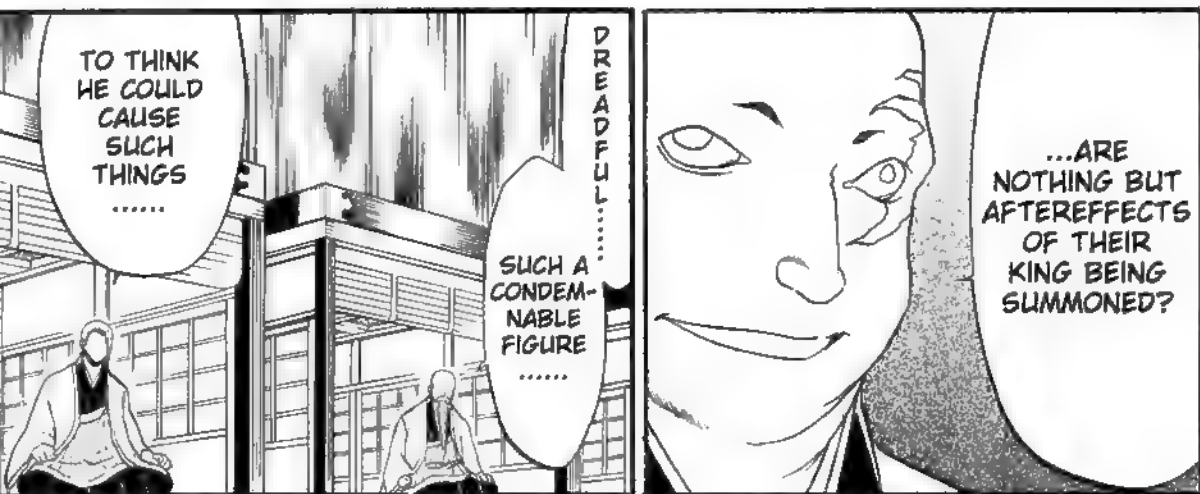
BECAUSE
TAKAMINE
SOIJOU
IS PART
OF THE
AUSTERITY
FACTION
...



...AND THE
EXPLOSION OF
BIZARRE EVENTS
THROUGHOUT
THE COUNTRY,
THOUGHT TO
BE SHIKABANE-
RELATED.....

IN
OTHER
WORDS, THE
STRANGE
MOVEMENTS
OF THE STARS
SINCE THE
ECLIPSE...

I
SEE.



TO THINK
HE COULD
CAUSE
SUCH
THINGS
.....

SUCH A
CONDEMN-
ABLE
FIGURE
.....

DREADFUL.....

...ARE
NOTHING BUT
AFTEREFFECTS
OF THEIR
KING BEING
SUMMONED?



IT DOESN'T
SEEM THE
KING CAN DO
ANYTHING
MORE THAN
WE'VE
ALREADY
SEEN.....

THEN
THE UNCLEAN
BUNCH FAILED
TO PROPERLY
REVIVE THEIR
KING.....
THEY
FAILED.....

HOWEVER.....
GONDAL-SOUJOU,
IF EVERYTHING
WE'VE HEARD IS
TRUE.....



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
TAKA-
MINE?



.....
NO.

**I
DOUBT
THEY
REALLY
FAILED.**



WHAT I
MEAN IS
THAT THEY
LIKELY
FORESAW
THIS
OUTCOME
FROM THE
START.

THEY
WOULD
NEVER
COMMIT
SUCH A
BASIC
BLUNDER.

TO THE
SWARM,
THEIR
KING IS
THEIR
LIFELINE.



...
NO.
**HE'S
RIGHT.**

BUT
HOW.....
COULD THEY
REALLY
THINK SO
FAR AHEAD
.....?



**AND HE
WAS YOUR
DISCIPLE.....
ONLY NATURAL
YOU'D KNOW
HOW HE
THINKS.**

...THE
TRAITOR
MONK,
AKASHA
SHISHIDOU,
IS
ASSISTING
THE
UNCLEAN
BUNCH.

IT'S
ACTUALLY
QUITE
POSSIBLE.....
TAKAMINE'S
HUNCH
.....

AFTER
ALL...





I.....
MERELY
THINK IT'S
DANGEROUS TO
UNDERESTIMATE
THIS ENEMY.

.....BUT
WHAT
GOOD WILL
IT DO TO
ENCOURAGE
FURTHER
DISCORD?

TCH.....
DAMN,
HITTING
ME WHERE
IT HURTS

OOOOO

.....
NO.

THAT'S
ENOUGH.

NOW THAT
IT'S BLOWN
UP INTO
SUCH A BIG
AFFAIR...
HOW DO
YOU
INTEND
TO COPE?

THE
MATTER OF
THE UNCLEAN
BUNCH WAS
ORIGINALLY
YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY,
NO?

HMPH.
I
WONDER.



.....DAI-
SOUJOU-
SAMA.



I'VE
ALREADY
OVERLOOKED
TAKAMINE'S
TARDINESS
AND
LIMEHARA'S
ABSENCE.
.....YOU ALL
OUGHT TO
KNOW THAT.

THE
RITE OF
DISCOURSE
IS NOT A
PLATFORM
FOR YOUR
PETTY
BICKERING.



YES?

TAKA-
MINE.



.....OF
COURSE.

PLEASE.....
FORGIVE
ME.

YOUR EDICT
NEGOTIATIONS.....
HOW DID THE TALKS
GO WITH THE
**EXTERNAL
NONINTERVENTIONIST
FORCES?**

REGARDING
THE LATEST
INTELLIGENCE
ON THE
UNCLEAN
BUNCH
.....



WE WILL
LIKELY SEE
A NUMBER OF
ENGAGEMENTS,
SOONER
RATHER
THAN
LATER.

RIGHT.

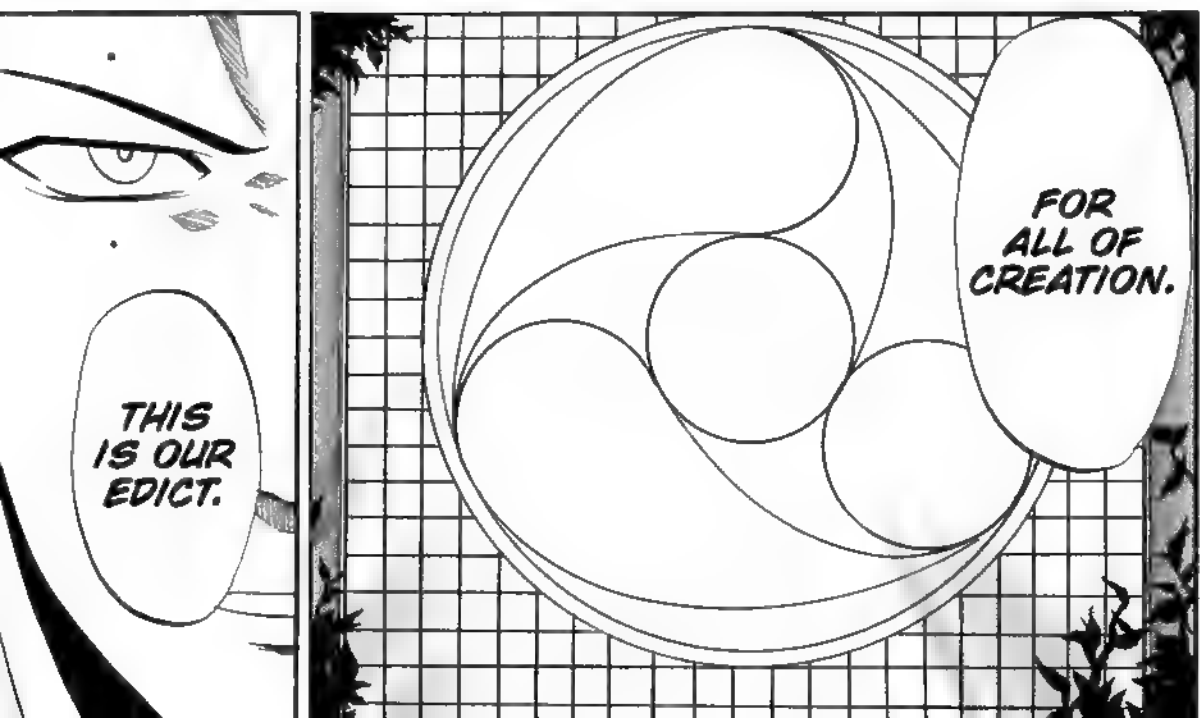
BASED ON
THE UNCLEAN
BUNCH'S PAST
PATTERNS AND
TENDENCIES,
WE'VE SPREAD
DRAGNETS AT
THE LOCATIONS
THEY'RE LIKELY
TO VISIT NEXT.



WE'VE
MADE THEM
UNDERSTAND
THAT OUR
DOMESTIC
SITUATION
WITH THE
SHIKABANE OF
THE UNCLEAN
BUNCH IS
NO SMALL
MATTER.

...I'VE GOTTEN
IN CONTACT
WITH TWELVE
ORGANIZATIONS.
NEARLY ALL
HAVE PROMISED
US THEIR
COOPERATION.

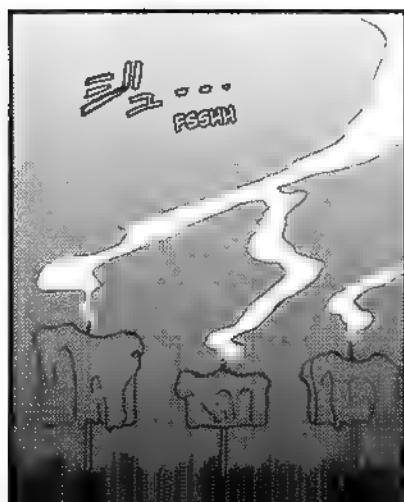
AS
FOR THE
NEGOTI-
ATIONS
WITH THE
FOREIGN
NONINTER-
VENTIONIST
FORCES
...



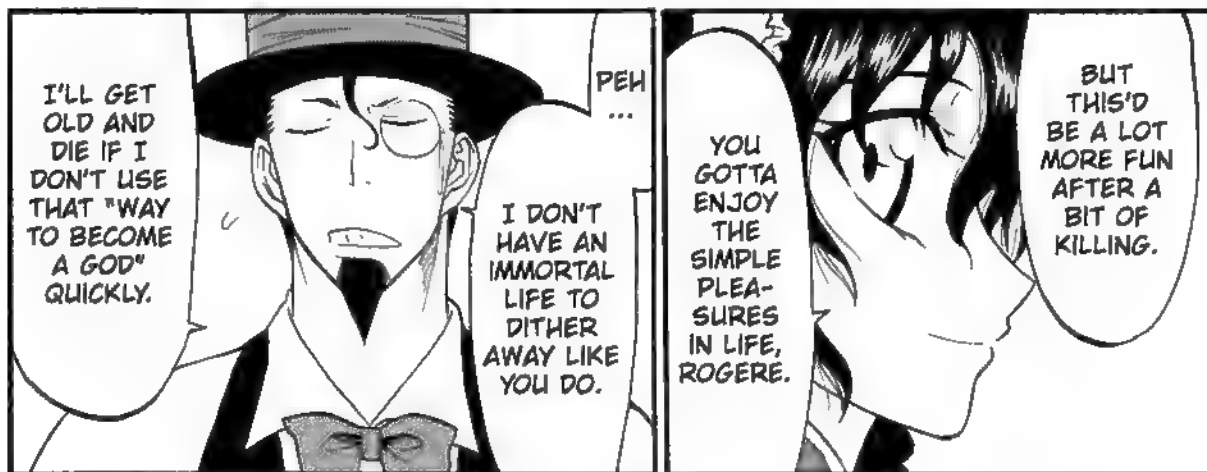


YES.

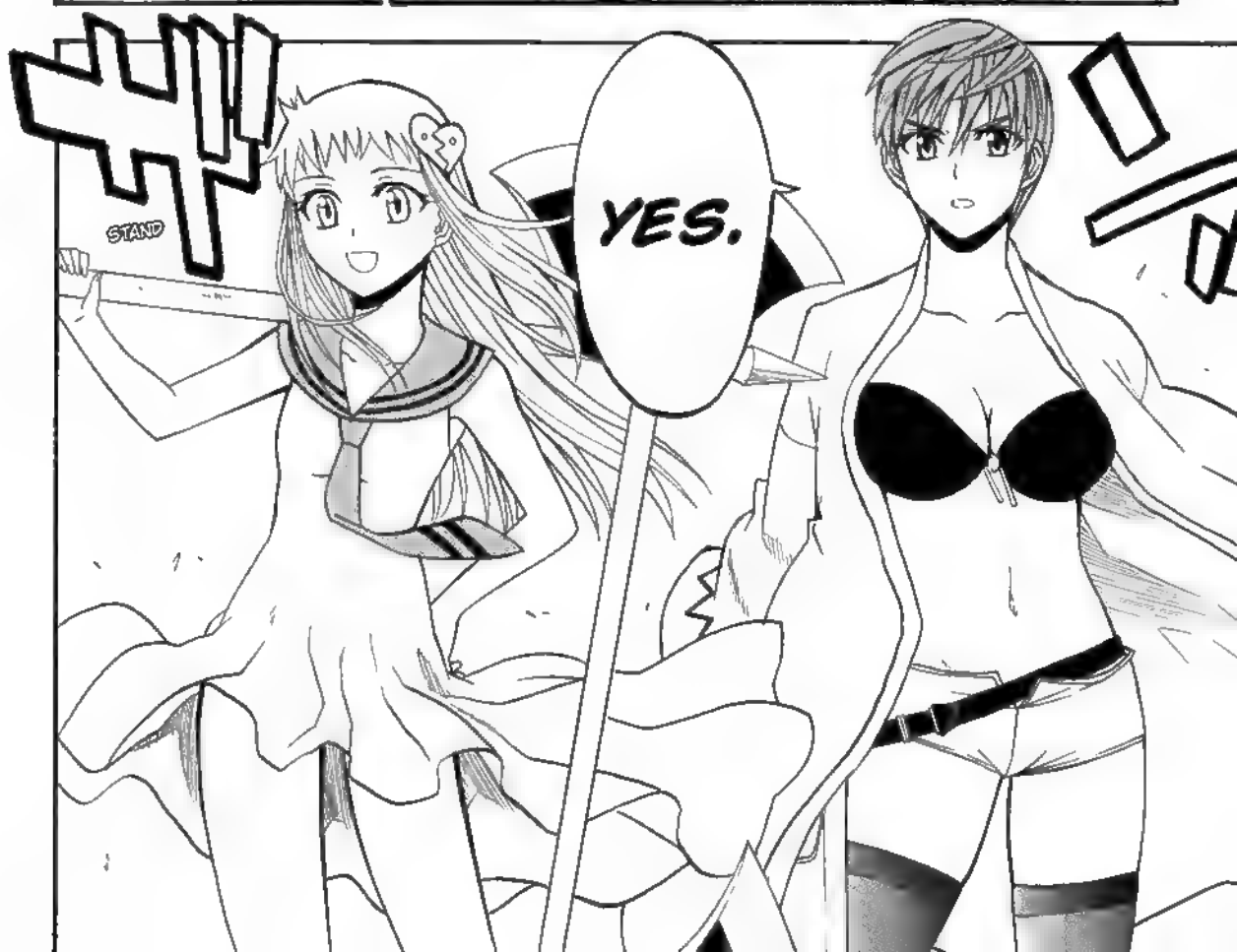
FOR
ALL OF
CREATION.

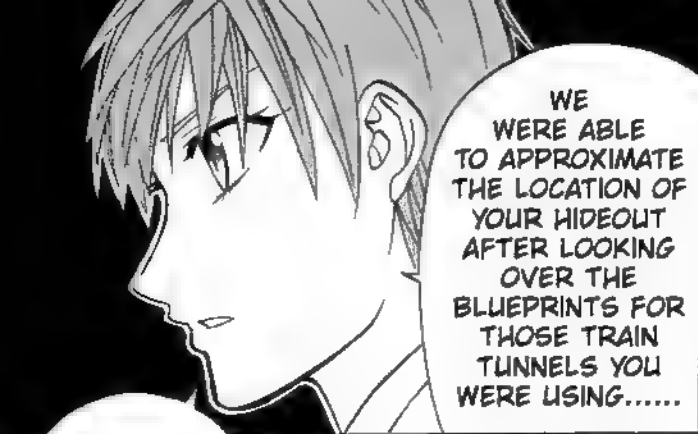












WE
WERE ABLE
TO APPROXIMATE
THE LOCATION OF
YOUR HIDEOUT
AFTER LOOKING
OVER THE
BLUEPRINTS FOR
THOSE TRAIN
TUNNELS YOU
WERE USING.....



THEN
WE SENT A
NUMBER OF
TEAMS TO
THE EXITS
ON THIS SIDE
OF THE CITY,
HOPING YOU'D
NATURALLY
FALL INTO
OUR NETS.



IT
WAS ONLY
NATURAL TO
EXPECT THAT
THE UNCLEAN
BUNCH WOULD
COME AFTER
OUR SECT
ONCE YOUR
KING WAS
REVIVED.



...!
THE
YOUNG
MISS
.....

h
th
...
COUGH

NOT
LIKE WE
HAD A
CHOICE.

GUESS
ALL THAT
CRAP
INVOLVED
WITH MAKING
THE GOD-
KILLER LET
YOU TRACK
US DOWN
PRETTY
EASILY.

IS
THAT
RIGHT
?



SURE.

CRACK
✂

GIVE
IT YOUR
BEST SHOT
.....



WE HAVE
TO ASK
YOU SOME
IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS.

BY
EDICT
...

...WE'RE
ORDERED
TO CAPTURE
YOU.



LET'S HAVE SOME FUN, KOUJON SECT.

WELL, IF YOU'RE READY ...



BETTER THAT WE DON'T GET INTERRUPTED LATER, WHILE WE'RE WORKING.

IT'S FINE.

H-HEY

LIGH



I AM GON-SOUJOU OF THE KOUJON SECT, RIKA ARAGAMI.



AND I WILL BEAT YOU!!

JUST TO BEAT YOU.



UNCLEAN BUNCH..... I'LL HAVE REVENGE FOR BROTHER TAGAMI!!

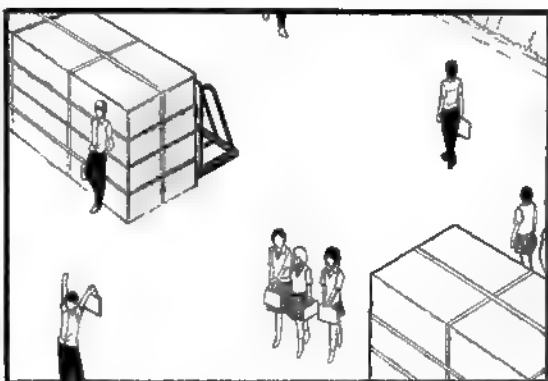
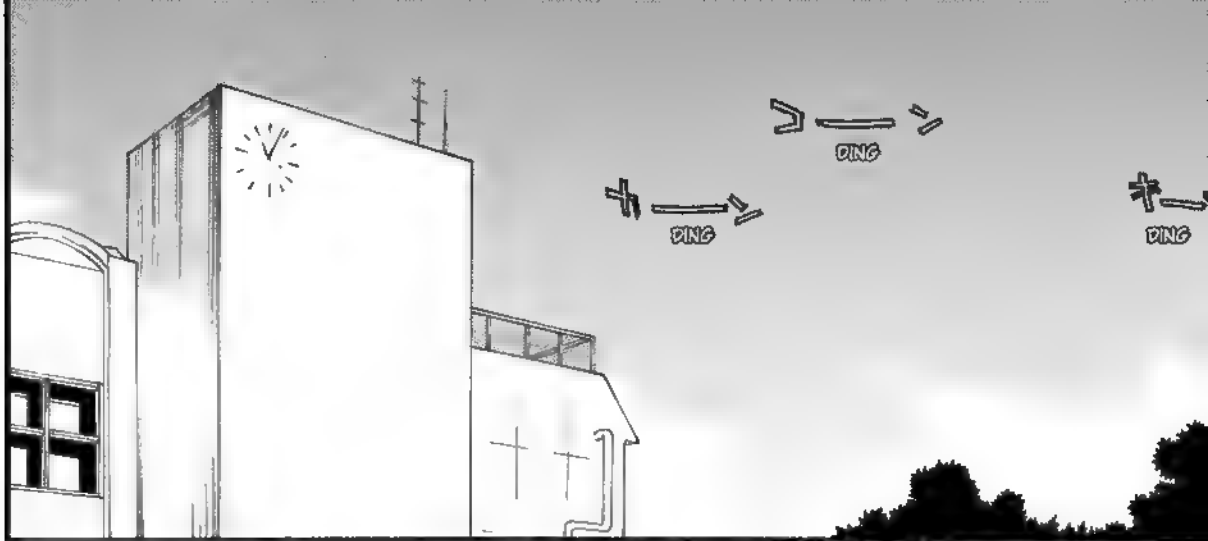
SHINK

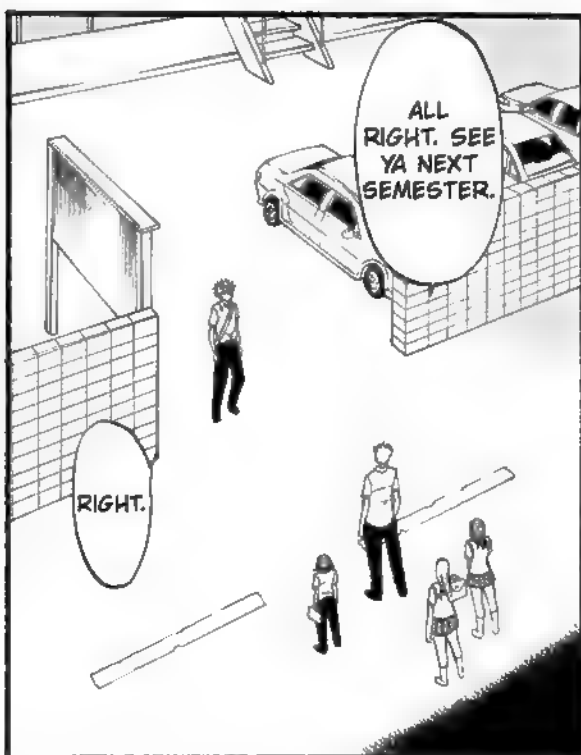
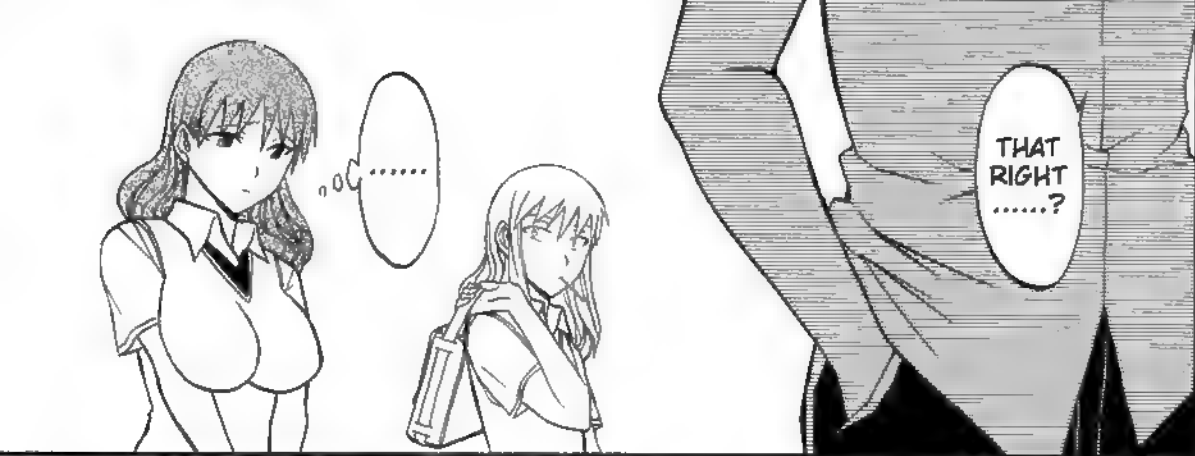
BUT..... I'M NOT HERE TO ENTERTAIN YOU.



ALMOST
LIKE WE
KILLED
SOMEONE
IMPORTANT
TO YOU.











SO
YOU'VE SAID
YOUR GOOD-
BYES.



YEAH.

HOSHI-
MURA-
SAN.....
DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU
WERE
HERE.

IDIOT.

AT
LEAST
THAT'S
BEEN
100%
TRUE FOR
ME.....
ALL
IDIOTS.

ANY
GUY WHO
MAKES
A GIRL
SAD AND
CAUSES
HER TO
WORRY IS
AN IDIOT
.....

AH.....
YEAH
.....?

EH?

HUH?





LET'S
DO
THIS
.....

.....
SAME
TO YOU.



S—

.....
OH.



?



THE
KOUJON
SECT'S
HOLY
MOUNTAIN—
MT.
GORYOU.

WE'RE
HEADED
FOR
WAKAYAMA
PREFEC-
TURE.

.....
WELL....
IF
YOU'RE
ALL
PACKED,
LET'S
GO.

YEAH
!!



SO HIGH
.....

.....



EH?
OH.....
RIGHT.



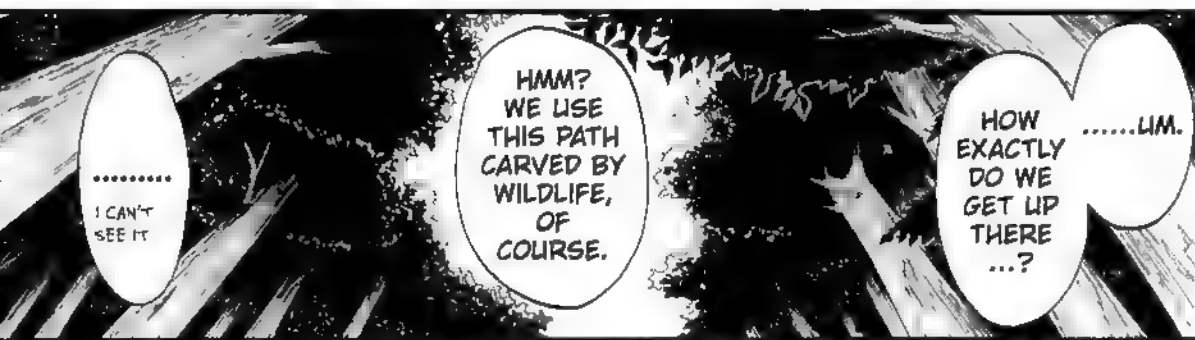
THAT'S
JUST FOR
TOURISTS.

NOT
THAT
ONE.
THIS
ONE.



THE
TRAINING
TEMPLE
FOR
WARRIOR
MONKS IS
ON THAT
FAR-OFF
PEAK.

.....
BUT WE
ALREADY WALKED
THREE KM.



.....
I CAN'T
SEE IT

HMM?
WE USE
THIS PATH
CARVED BY
WILDLIFE,
OF
COURSE.

HOW
EXACTLY
DO WE
GET UP
THERE
...?

.....UM.



MT.
GORYOU
IS SMACK
DAB IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE KII
MOUNTAINS,
THIS NEAR
ENDLESS
MOUNTAIN
RANGE.

YOU
CAN'T GO
ON BY CAR
ONCE YOU
REACH THAT
FRONT GATE
WE WERE
JUST AT.
PART OF THE
TRIP JUST
HAS TO BE
WALKED.

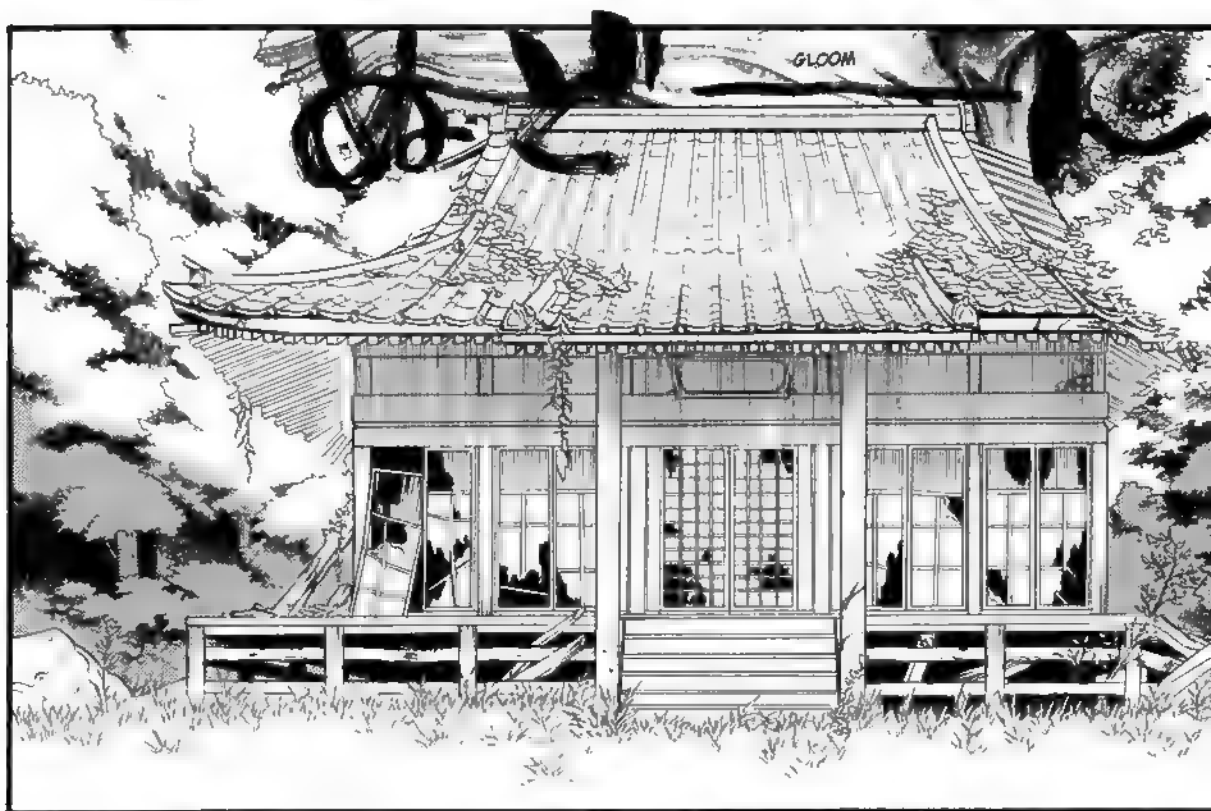


CRAP...
MY
BODY'S
NOT
DOING
GREAT.
AFTER
BEING
IN THE
HOSPITAL
AND
ALL

HAA.

HAA.







THINK
YOU
CAN
KEEP
UP,
OURI?



...WE'LL
DO SOME
SERIOUS
TRAINING.



FOR THE
NEXT
MONTH
...

ANY-
WAY.



.....
YES!

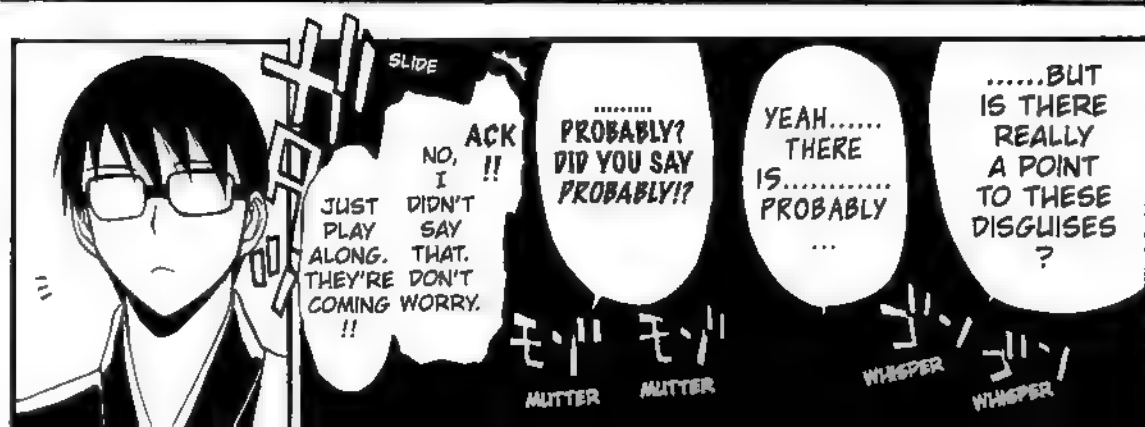
WHEEZE...



.....
YES.
I'M
GOOD.

THEY'RE
HERE.....
YOU ALL
READY?

...
KU
KU
KU.



SLIDE

JUST
PLAY
ALONG.
THEY'RE
DON'T
COMING
WORRY.
!!

ACK
NO,
I
DIDN'T
SAY
THAT.
DON'T
WORRY.

.....
PROBABLY?
DID YOU SAY
PROBABLY!?

YEAH.....
THERE
IS.....
PROBABLY
...

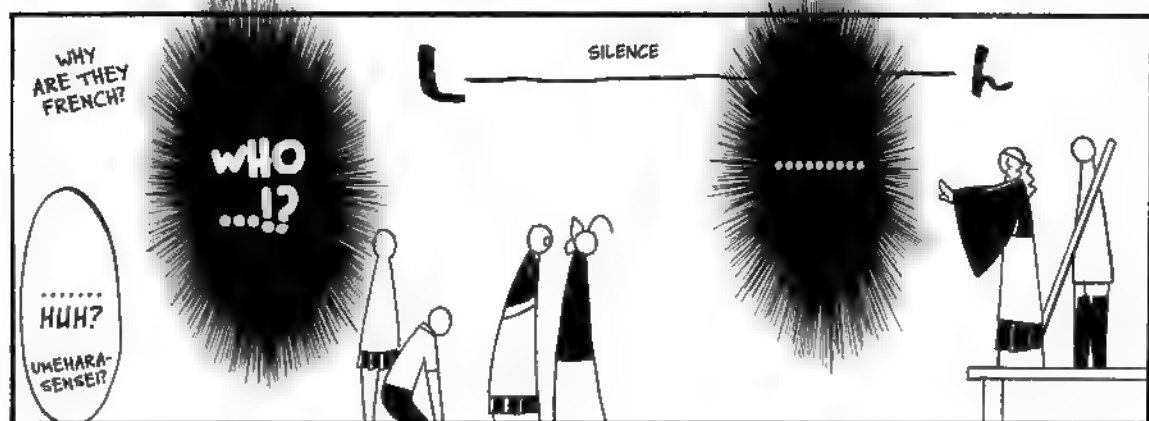
.....BUT
IS THERE
REALLY
A POINT
TO THESE
DISGUISES
?

MUTTER

MUTTER

WHISPER

WHISPER



I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM THAT OTHER SOUJOU, TAKAMINE.

GOOD TO MEET YA, KID.

DEATH 23: TEN DEATHS

MY NAME IS KANECHIKA UMEHARA... I'M A SOUJOU.

WELCOME TO MT. GORYOU, THE KOUJON SECT'S HOLY GROUND.

AND..... MAKINA HOSHIMURA.

YOU'LL APPRECIATE...THE FRUITS... OF YOUR LABORS... I EXPECT

UM.

..... HOWEVER ...

ONCE YOU'VE BOTH... OVERCOME... THEM...

YOUR TRAINING HERE WILL BE FILLED WITH HIGH HURDLES.

WHAT
THE.....!?
WHAT'S
GOING
ON.....

MY
BUTT'S
GONNA
SPLIT
OPEN!!

JUST
20,000
MORE
HITS.

HOW
ABOUT YOU
OVERCOME
THIS HURPLE
AND SHOW
ME THE
FRUITS
OF YOUR
LABOR?

OUCH!!
THAT
HURTS,
SAWA-
MIYA
!!

DEATH 23: TEN DEATHS

THEY...
RIPPED
!?

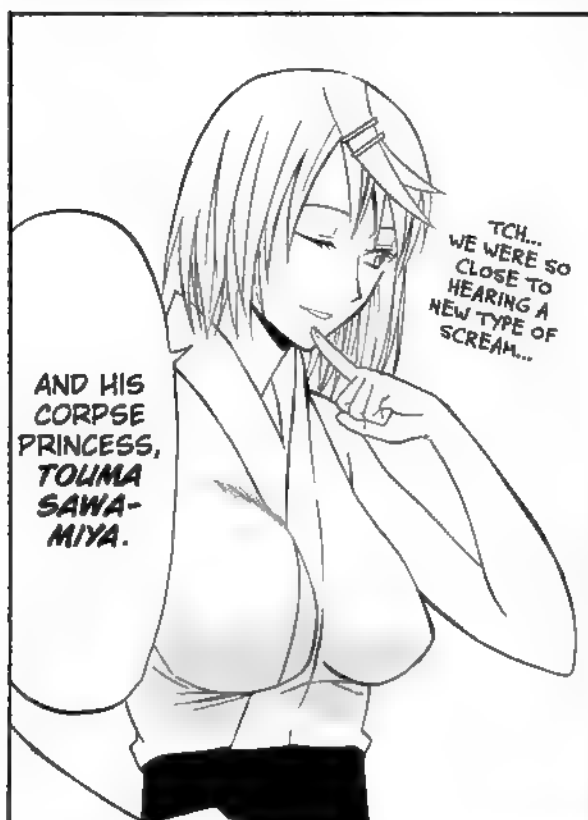
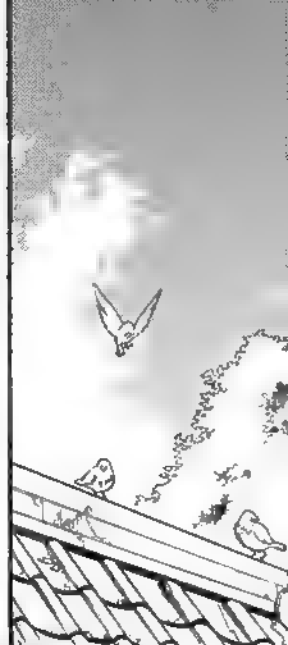
IT'S
FINE.....
DON'T
WORRY.

HIYAH!

IT
SHOULDN'T,
THOUGH!!
YOU'VE
ALREADY
TORN TWO
PAIRS OF
PANTS!!
TWO MORE,
AND I'LL
HAVE NONE
LEFT!!

IT'S
FINE.
AFTER
THIS,
IT'LL BE
GOOD AND
USED TO
SPLITTING
OPEN.

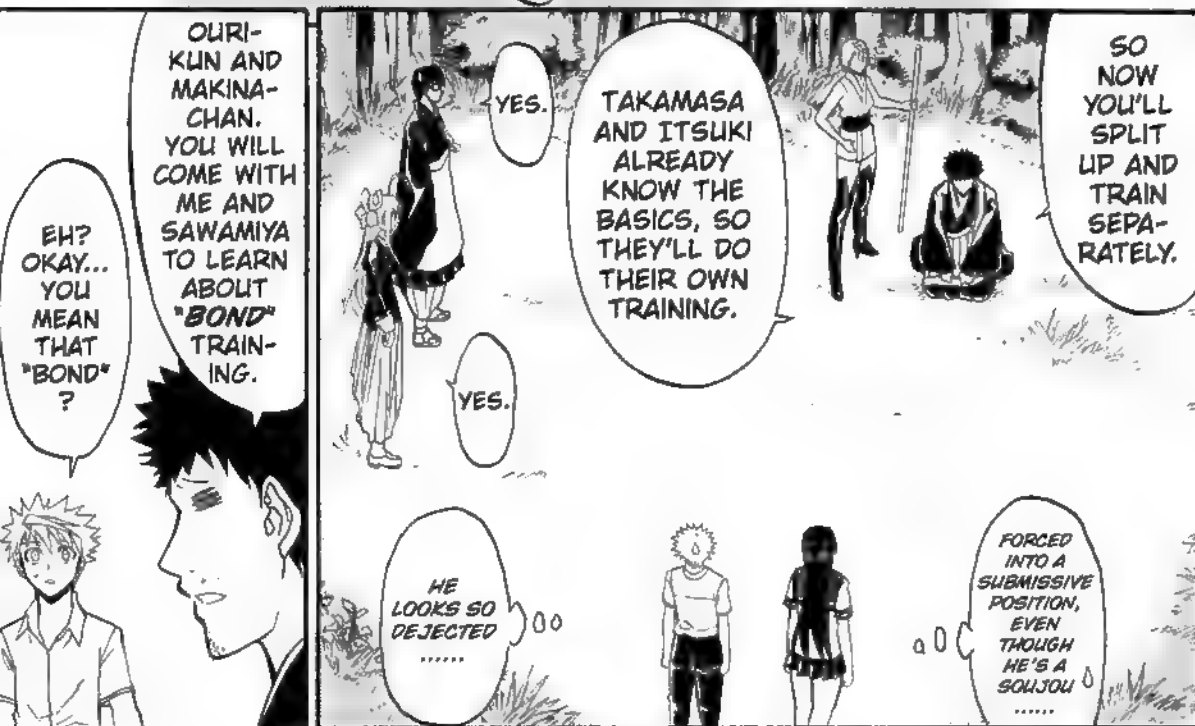


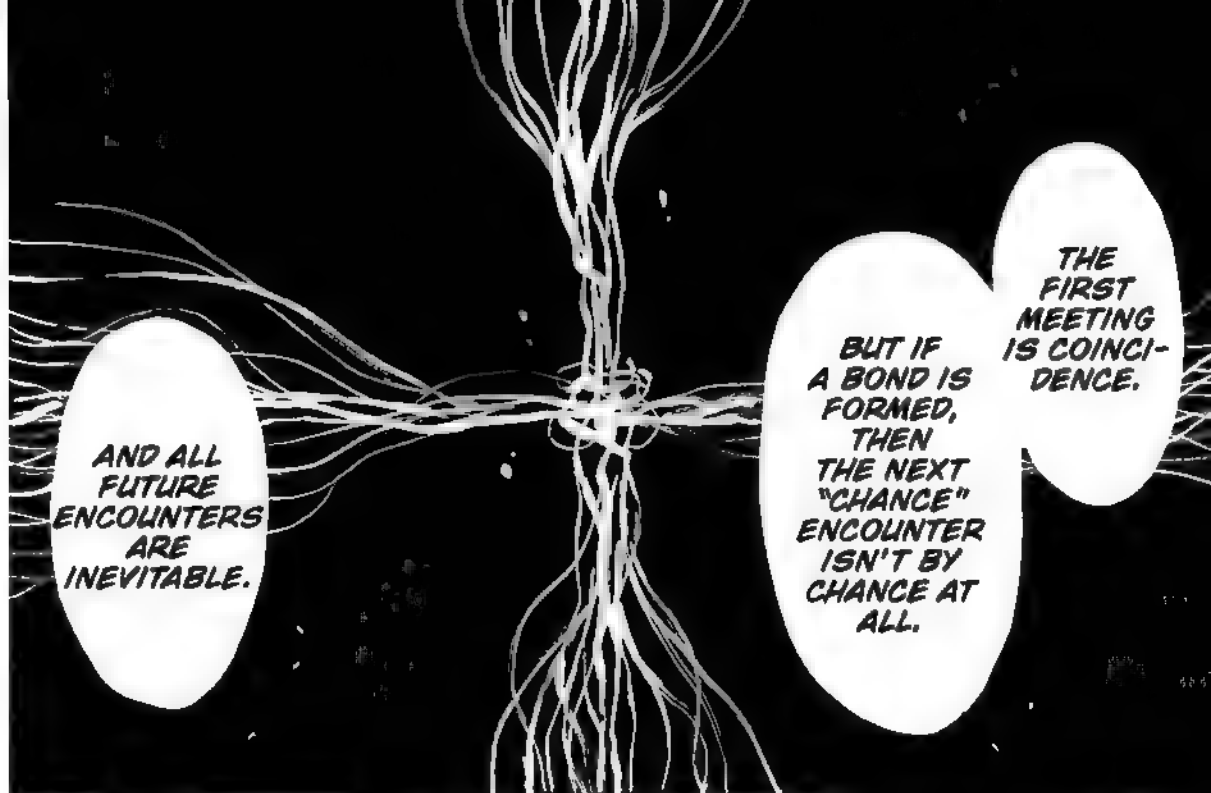






.....
LMM.





AND ALL
FUTURE
ENCOUNTERS
ARE
INEVITABLE.

BUT IF
A BOND IS
FORMED,
THEN
THE NEXT
"CHANCE"
ENCOUNTER
ISN'T BY
CHANCE AT
ALL.

THE
FIRST
MEETING
IS COINCI-
DENCE.



.....
OHH.
I SEE.

YOU
CAN THINK
OF IT AS
A PIPELINE
THROUGH
WHICH
THEIR LIFE
ENERGY
OR "AURA"
FLOWS.



THE BOND
BETWEEN
A CORPSE
PRINCESS
AND HER
CONTRACT
HOLDER...



?



YES.

.....
YES.

GO GET
CHANGED
INTO
YOUR
TRAINING
GEAR,
BOTH OF
YOU.

LET'S
GET
STARTED
WITH THE
TRAINING.





NOW
I'M...
JUST
BULLYING
HIM...

.....
GIVEN
THAT
YOU
JUST
LOST
HIM.

.....
**DON'T
DO IT..**

JUST.....
EXPECTED
YOU TO
BE MORE
DOWN
IN THE
DUMPS.

EVER
MOVING
FOR-
WARD.

EH?

AH.....
SURE.

.....

CLENCH

AFTER
YOU SAID
THAT.....
I.....

I
COULDN'T
SAY IT
BACK
RIGHT
AWAY.

.....
WHEN
I WENT
TO MEET
YOU.....

LOOKING
FORWARD
TO
WORKING
WITH YOU.

...THAT'D BE
ADMITTING
THAT KEISEI
IS REALLY
GONE.....I
FELT LIKE I
WAS ABOUT
TO LOSE
A PART OF
MYSELF
.....

BECAUSE
IF I'D
REPLIED
TO YOU...





SHOW
ME JUST
HOW
PREPARED
YOU
ARE.....!

THEN
PUT
YOUR
MONEY
WHERE
YOUR
MOUTH
IS.



OH.



SHE
USED
MY
FIRST
NAME

.....!



.....
GOOD
LUCK.

.....
OURI.

.....
WEIRD.

I'M
GOING
ON
AHEAD.



YEAH
...!

WEIRD THAT
A CORPSE
PRINCESS
WOULD GET ALL
COMPETITIVE
WITH HER
CONTRACT
HOLDER.....







**EHHH
!?**

SHOCK

HI

**GO
CATCH
THE
RABBIT
YOU
JUST
LET GO.**

**FOR
YOUR
FIRST
AUSTERITY
TRAINING
...**



**YOU
NEED
BOTH
TYPES OF
TRAINING,
SO THIS
IS TWO
BIRDS
WITH ONE
STONE,
REALLY.**

**OF
COURSE,
RUNNING
AROUND
THE
MOUNTAINS
WILL ALSO
IMPROVE
YOUR
BASIC
STAMINA.**

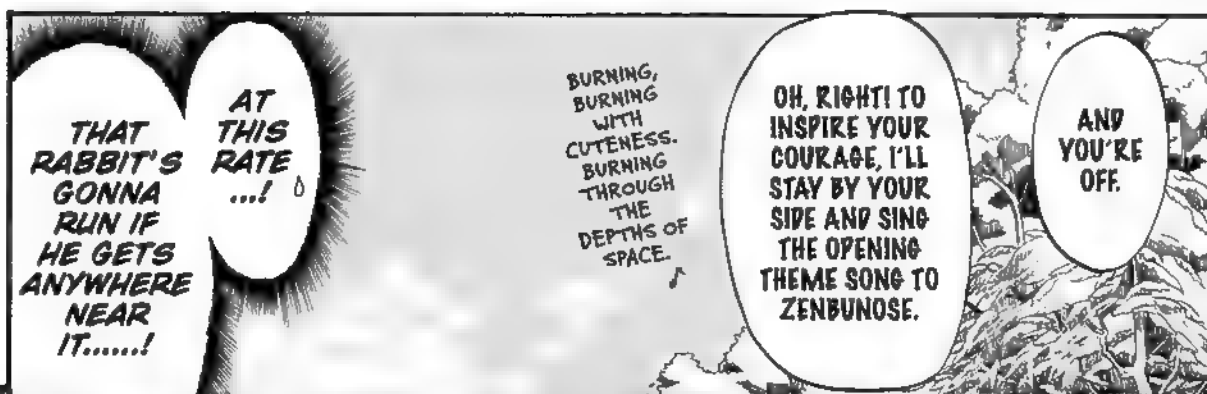
RIGHT.

...!



**IF YOU
PICK UP
ON THAT
BOND,
YOU CAN
TRACK
DOWN
THE
RABBIT.**

**A FAINT
BOND WAS
FORMED
BETWEEN
YOU AND
THE
RABBIT
WHEN YOU
HELD IT
JUST
NOW.**



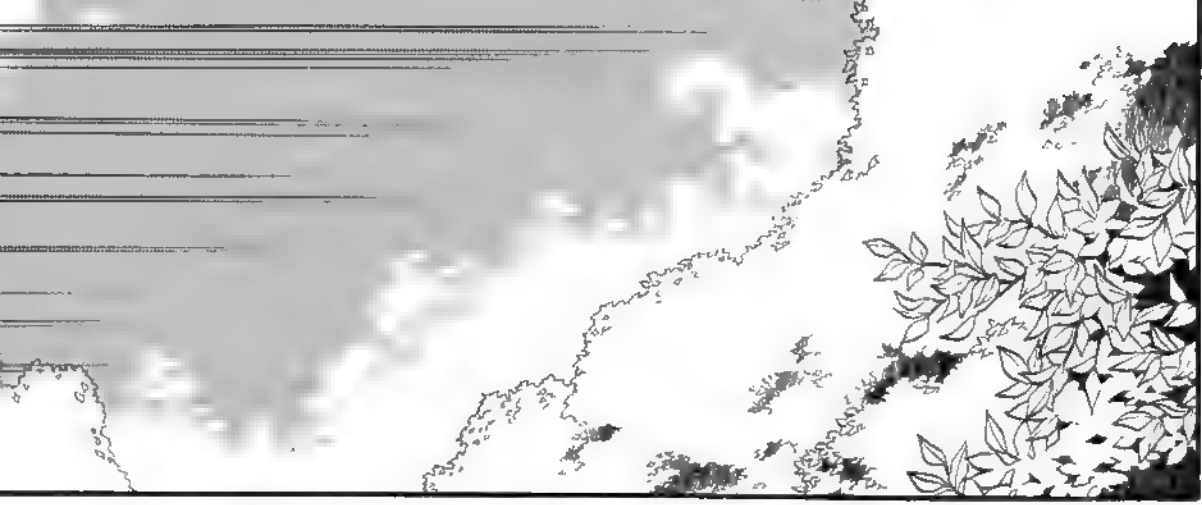
**THAT
RABBIT'S
GONNA
RUN IF
HE GETS
ANYWHERE
NEAR
IT.....!**

**AT
THIS
RATE
...!**

**BURNING,
BURNING
WITH
CUTENESS.
BURNING
THROUGH
THE
DEPTHS OF
SPACE.**

**OH, RIGHT! TO
INSPIRE YOUR
COURAGE, I'LL
STAY BY YOUR
SIDE AND SING
THE OPENING
THEME SONG TO
ZENBUNOSE.**

**AND
YOU'RE
OFF.**





NO!



IS THIS REALLY AS SERIOUS ...

...AS THE KOUJON SECT CAN GET?

HEY, YOU DONE ALREADY?



THAT RIGHT HAND..... IT'S A RITUAL TOOL.

JUST GOTTA FOCUS ON DODGING THAT.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.



WE'RE JUST..... GETTING STARTED!

AND IF YOU MAKE LIGHT OF US..... IT WILL BE YOUR LOSS, LEE LI HONG!



WHOOOSH

HA HA.

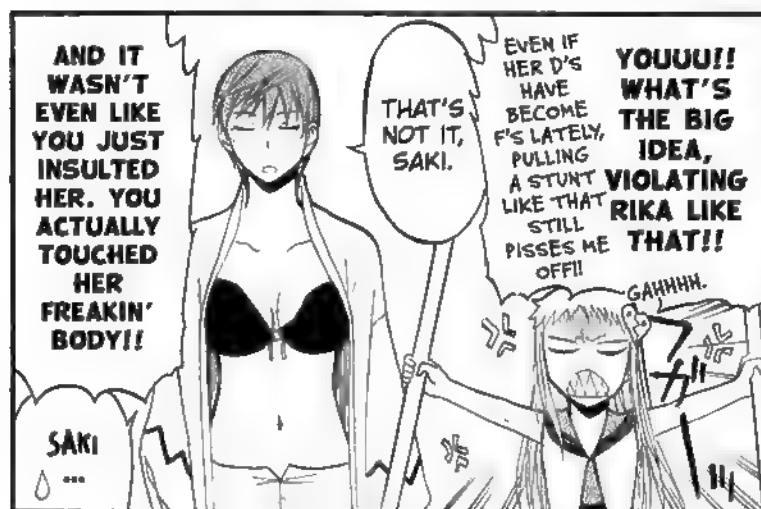
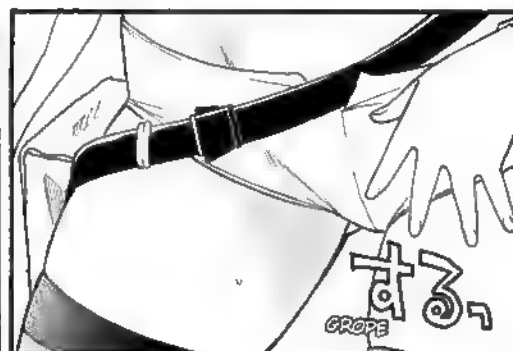
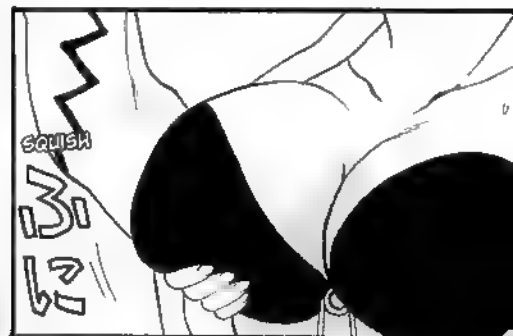
SMASH

DAH !!

HAH.

TAP





BOTTLE: KOUGON SECT'S SOUMA





SORT OF LIKE STEROIDS.

KOUGON SECT MONKS USE IT TO PUT THEMSELVES ON SHIKABANE LEVEL, PHYSICALLY.

THIS IS... **SOUMA**, ISN'T IT?



...WHAT OF IT?

...THAT MEANS YOU CAN ACTUALLY TRACK MY MOVEMENTS..... RIGHT?

AND IF YOU'RE USING THIS NOW, MA'AM...



...BECAUSE WE STOLE A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON FROM YOU, YES?

...IT MUST BE...



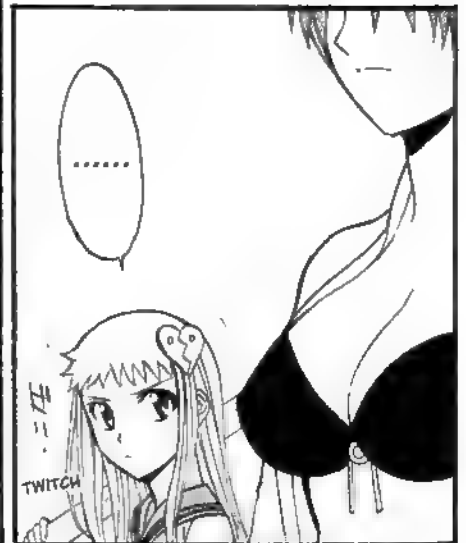
BUT USING **SOUMA** COMES WITH SOME NASTY SIDE-EFFECTS.



IF YOU'RE GOING ALL OUT, LIKE THIS ...

SORRY, MA'AM.

TEE HEE.





STAY
BACK,
ROGERE.

RIGHT.

TOO
SCARY.

SHE'S
FINALLY
GETTING
SERIOUS.

A SEALED
MANDALA.....
THAT'S WHEN A
KOUJON SECT
MONK USES A
RITUAL TOOL
TO PERFORM
"MIRACLES."
THEY'RE THE
STRONGEST
RITE-BASED
TECHNIQUES
THEY'VE GOT.

RIGHT!

I GUESS
IT WAS
WORTH
TEASING
YOU A
LITTLE.



I
OUGHT
TO TELL
YOU.....
THERE'S
NO USE IN
RUNNING
FOR THAT
HOLE YOU
CRAWLED
OUT OF.

THE
OTHERS
TEAMS
HAVE
ALREADY
BEGIN
SEARCHING
AND
SEALING
OFF THE
TUNNELS.

YOU
KNOW
ABOUT
SEALED
MANDALAS,
YET STILL
YOU WISH
TO FACE
US
ALONE?

.....
YOU'RE
CONFIDENT.



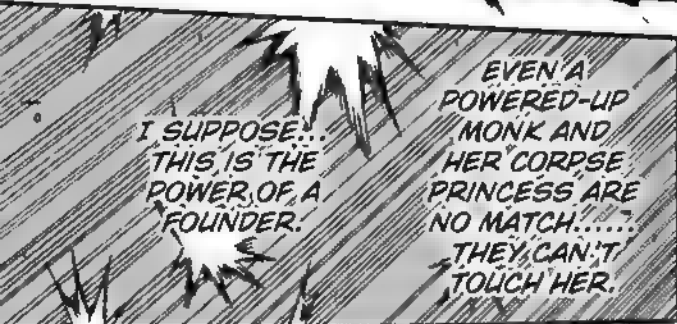
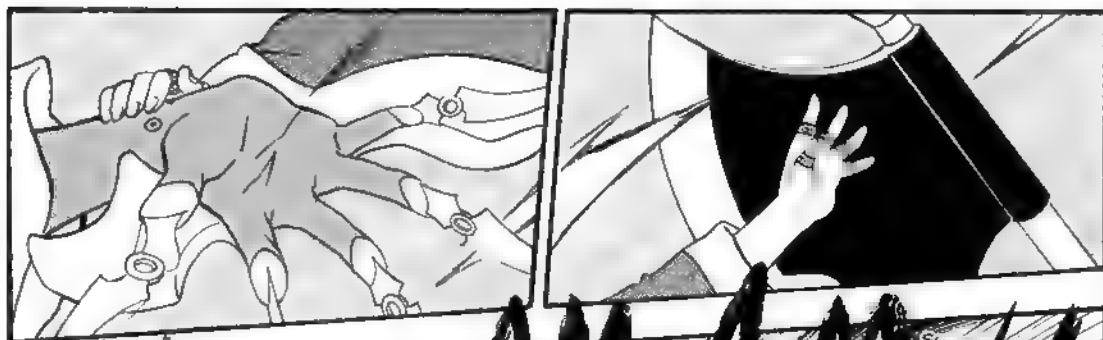
HMPH
.....

YOU
REALLY...
BELIEVE
THAT?

YOU
HAVE
NOWHERE
LEFT TO
RUN.

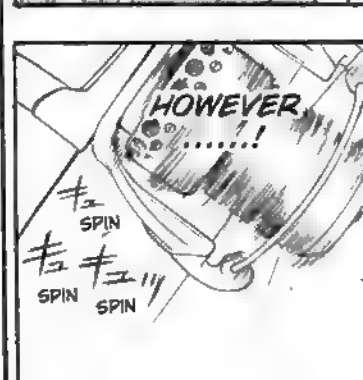
AND
WE'RE
DUE TO
RECEIVE
BACKUP
AT ANY
MOMENT.





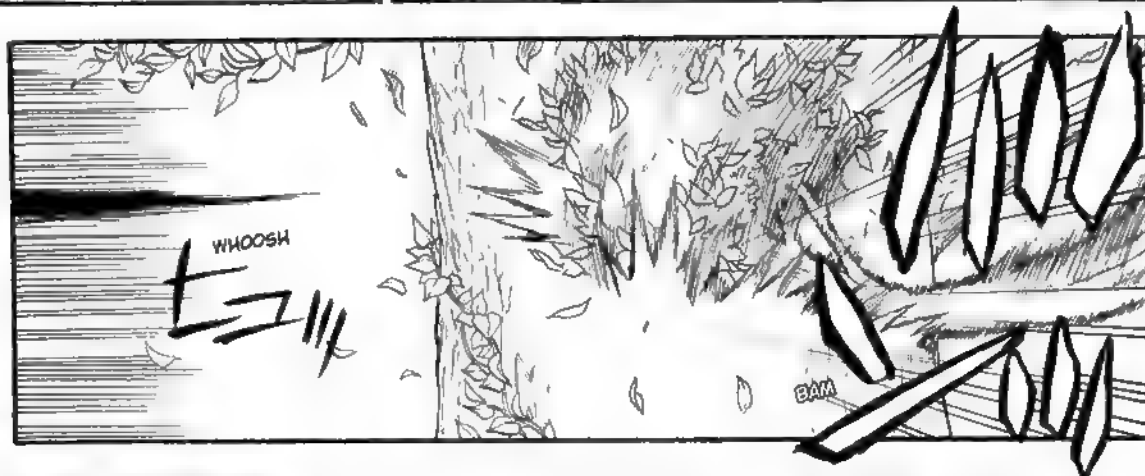
EVEN A POWERED-UP MONK AND HER CORPSE PRINCESS ARE NO MATCH..... THEY CAN'T TOUCH HER.



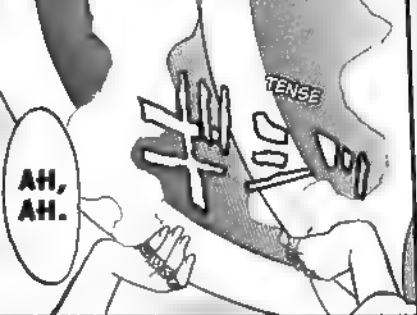














SO HOW'D YOU
END UP
LIKE
THIS,
THEN?
♥

HAH.
.....
YOU
THINK
KIDS
ARE
SIMPLE
?



...TO
GET
CAUGHT
WITH
ME.....

FROM THE
START...
SHE
MEANT TO
SACRIFICE
HERSELF.

YOU
...



SWISH

SQUEEZE



CHARGE



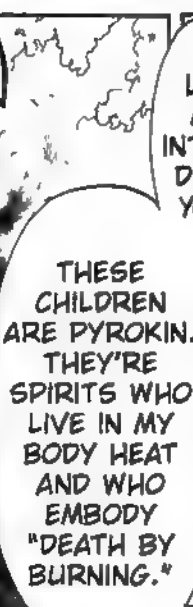
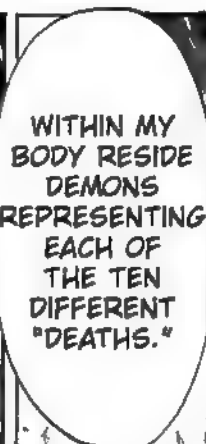
...TO
FINISH
THIS!!

AS LONG
AS THE
STRINGS
HOLD.....

AND
NOW
.....

FLIK







...
**THERE'S
NO WAY
I CAN
ACTUALLY
DIE.**

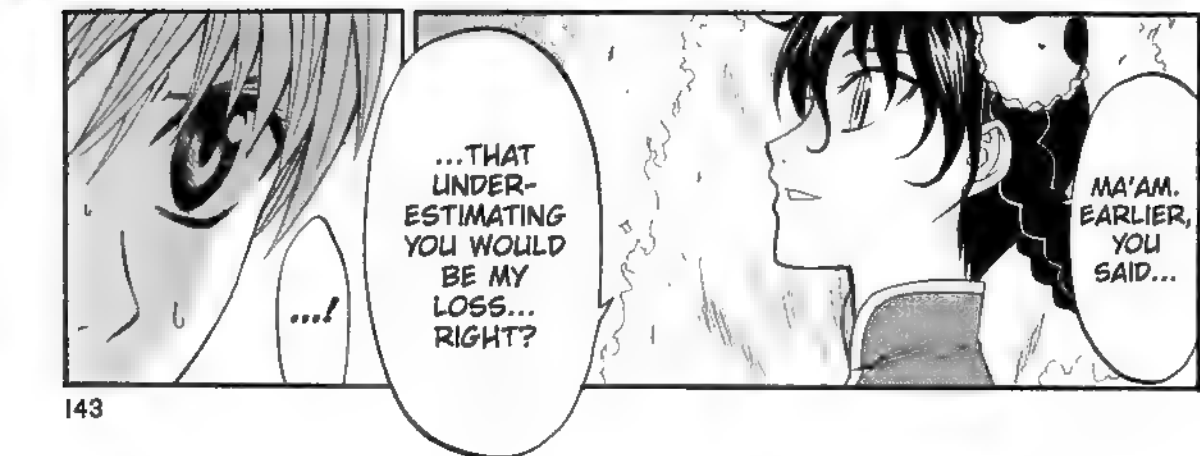
**THAT'S
WHY...**



**SWORDS,
SPEARS,
GUNS,
DOESN'T
MATTER.
NONE
HAVE ANY
EFFECT
ON ME.**

**BUT IT
DOESN'T
HURT ME...
SAME WITH
DAMAGE
FROM
OTHER
WEAPONS.**

**THIS
FIRE IS
REAL.....
IT'S HOT,
AND IT'LL
BURN
YOU.**



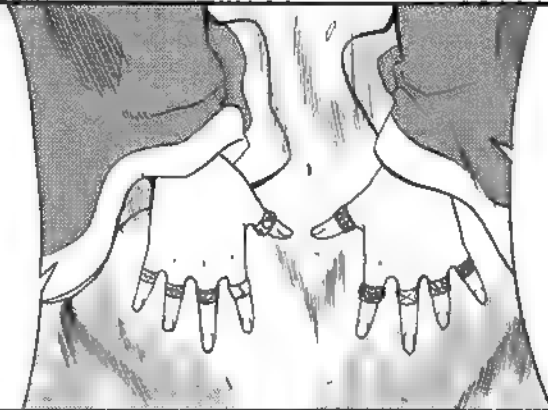
...!
**...THAT
UNDER-
ESTIMATING
YOU WOULD
BE MY
LOSS...
RIGHT?**

**MA'AM.
EARLIER,
YOU
SAID...**



**NO
MATTER
WHAT
MIRACLES
YOU WHIP
OUT.....
A HUMAN
COULD
NEVER
DEFEAT A
FOUNDER
LIKE
ME.**

**THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
THOUGH.**



**I COULD
EVEN JUST
STAND THERE
AND TAKE IT.....
LET SOMEONE
TRY TO CHOP
ME TO BITS.
.....BUT I
WOULDN'T BE
HARMED.**

**I'VE
WALKED
THE
DAOIST
PATH.
I'M THE
JIANGSHI
HERMIT
WHO
CONTROLS
DEATH
ITSELF.**



**TCH
!!**

!

**NI
NI
NI**

**NO
MATTER
WHAT
YOU
TRY, I
CAN'T
LOSE.**



**GET
IT?**



AH.

RIGHT.
I'VE GOTTA
ASK YOU
SOMETHING.



...I'M
SO
STRONG
IT'S
ALMOST
UNFAIR!

HEH-HEH.

SORRY.

EVEN
WHEN
USING
JUST
ONE
OF MY
"DEATHS"

.....

ADVANCE



WHICH DO YOU
PREFER- SMOKED
MEATS OR
STRAIGHT-UP
BARBECUE?

HEY.....

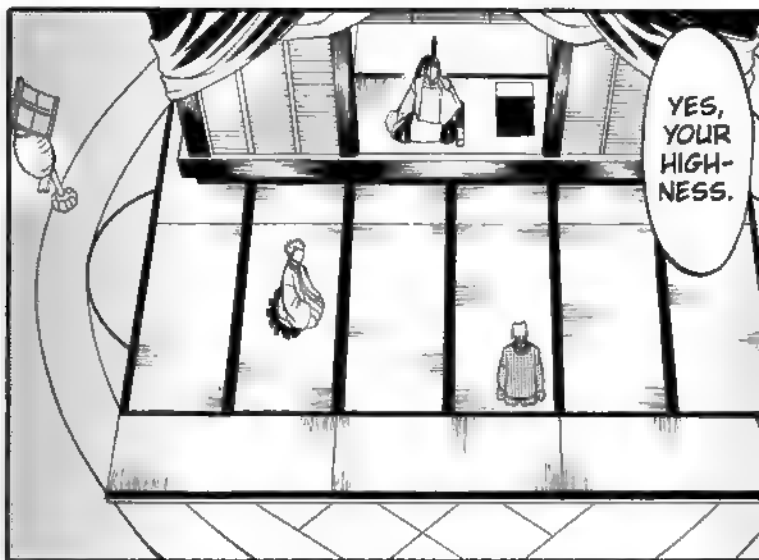


**A TRUE
IMMORTAL?**

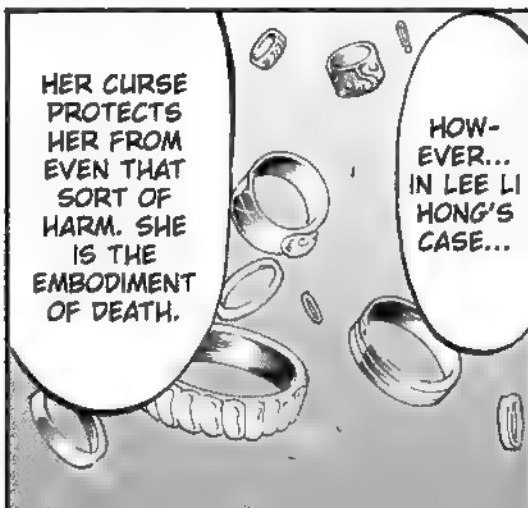


**THAT
IS LEE LI
HONG'S
...**

**...
CURSE.**



**YES,
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.**



**HER CURSE
PROTECTS
HER FROM
EVEN THAT
SORT OF
HARM. SHE
IS THE
EMBODIMENT
OF DEATH.**

**HOW-
EVER...
IN LEE LI
HONG'S
CASE...**

**THE LOSS OF
THE HEAD OR
THE CURSE-
PRODUCING
APPENDAGE
RENDERS ONE
VULNERABLE
TO PHYSICAL
DESTRUCTION.**

**ORDINARILY...
A SHIKABANE'S
IMMORTAL
NATURE IS A
PRODUCT OF
TENACIOUS
VITALITY AND
LIMITLESS
CAPACITY FOR
REGENERATION,
BUT...**



COR-
RECT.

.....
WHEN
BATTLEING
HER...

SO.....
THERE'S
NO WAY
TO OFF
HER?

OHH.



...
KILLING LEE
LI HONG IS
IMPOSSIBLE.

...UNLESS
ONE USES A
METHOD THAT
FALLS OUTSIDE
OF HER "TEN
DEATHS".....
SUCH AS YOUR
HIGHNESS'S
DIVINE POWER,
WHICH COULD
SLAY EVEN THE
GODS...



AND
NATURALLY,
IT IS A
KING'S
DUTY TO
LEARN
ABOUT HIS
ACTIVE
RETAINERS.

AMUSING...
SUCH
ENTERTAINING
STORIES,
SHISHIDOU.
THE PERFECT
WAY TO PASS
THE TIME
UNTIL MY
KINGDOM IS
ESTAB-
LISHED.

SOUNDS
LIKE
YOU'RE
SAYING I
COULDN'T
BEAT
HER.

KU
KU
KU.

YES
...
...
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.

TWINGE



POOM
K K K K K





THAT
MEANS
THEY
TOOK
RIKA
SOME-
WHERE.

TCH
.....



...
SHE'S
GONE
...

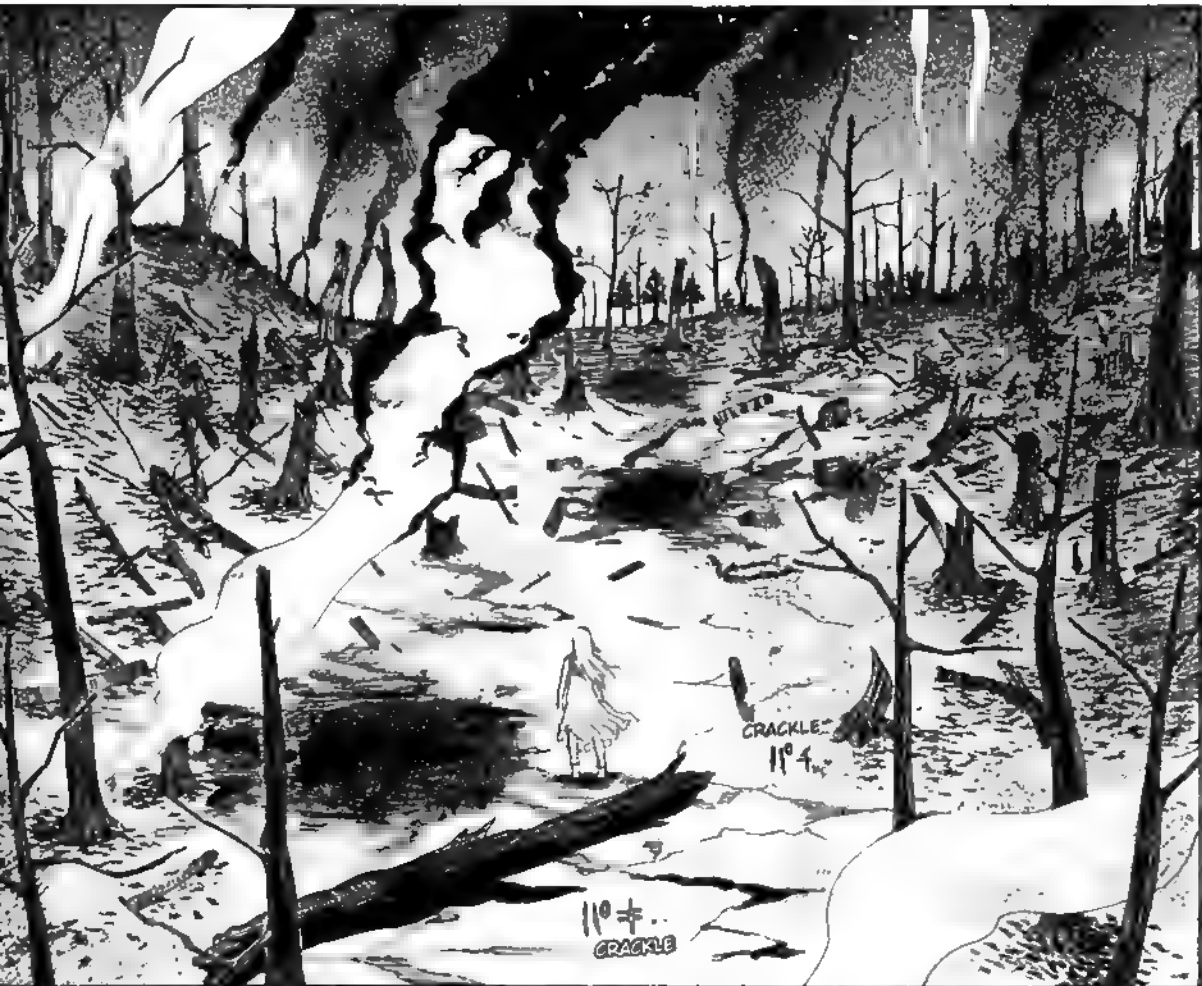
DON'T
TELL
ME...

BUT I
REGEN-
ERATED.
I'M STILL
ALIVE,
SO...



BUT
.....

I HAVE
TO SAVE
HER
.....!!



CRACKLE
11° 4'

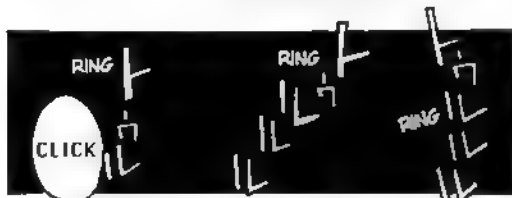
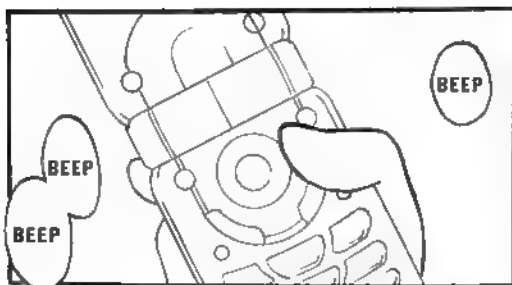
11° 4' ..
CRACKLE



WHAT
CAN
I DO,
ALONE
.....?

FOOM

AGAINST
AN ENEMY
CAPABLE OF
THIS.....



MAYBE
I CAN
REACH
THE
TEAMS
WAITING
AT THE
OTHER
EXITS
.....

.....
CRUD
...!

I'LL
...



BUT
THE OWNER
OF THIS
PHONE'S
NOT IN ANY
SHAPE TO
ACCEPT
YOUR CALL.

I
HEARD
THIS
RINGING
AND
THOUGHT
I MIGHT
AS WELL
PICK UP.

.....
HEY
THERE.



WHO.....
ARE
YOU.....?

!!
THIS.....
ISN'T
ONE OF
THE TEAM
MEMBERS
!!



OHH
.....



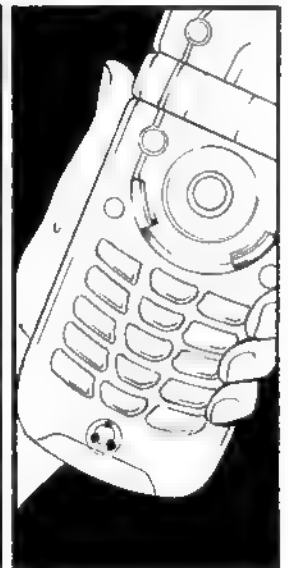
.....
WHAT
ABOUT...
THE
TEAM?



I'M.....
YOUR
ENEMY.

SHOULDN'T
BE HARD
TO GUESS.







NOT DONE
YET.....!!

THIS ISN'T
OVER.....!



NO
!!



!!

.....THINK,
THINK...WHAT
GOOD AM I
AS A CORPSE
PRINCESS
.....!?

IF I GIVE
UP, RIKA'S
DEAD.....!



IF
I'M
GONNA
SAVE
RIKA
.....

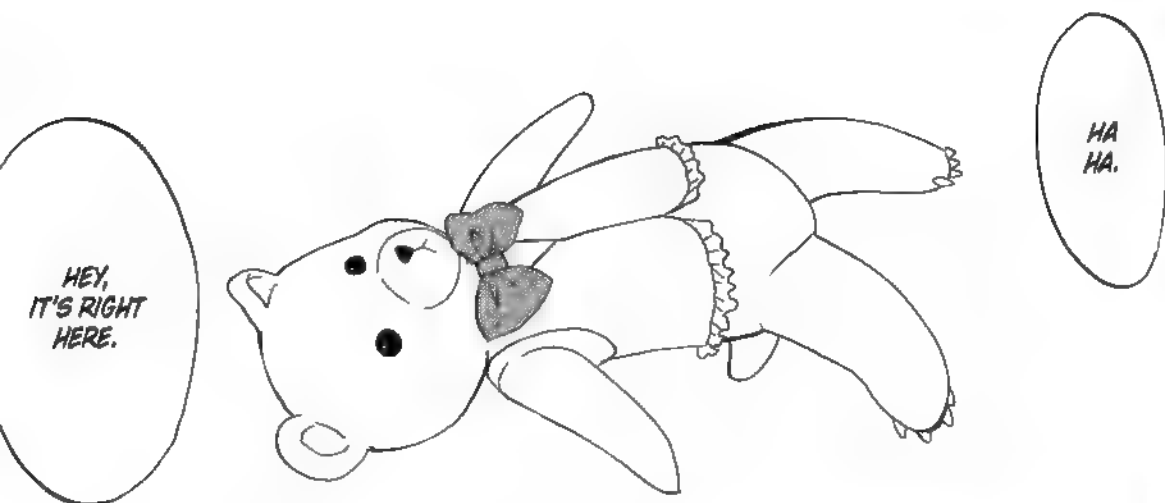
I'LL HAVE
TO TRACK
THEM DOWN
BEFORE
THEY GET
BACK TO
THEIR
HIDEOUT
.....!!



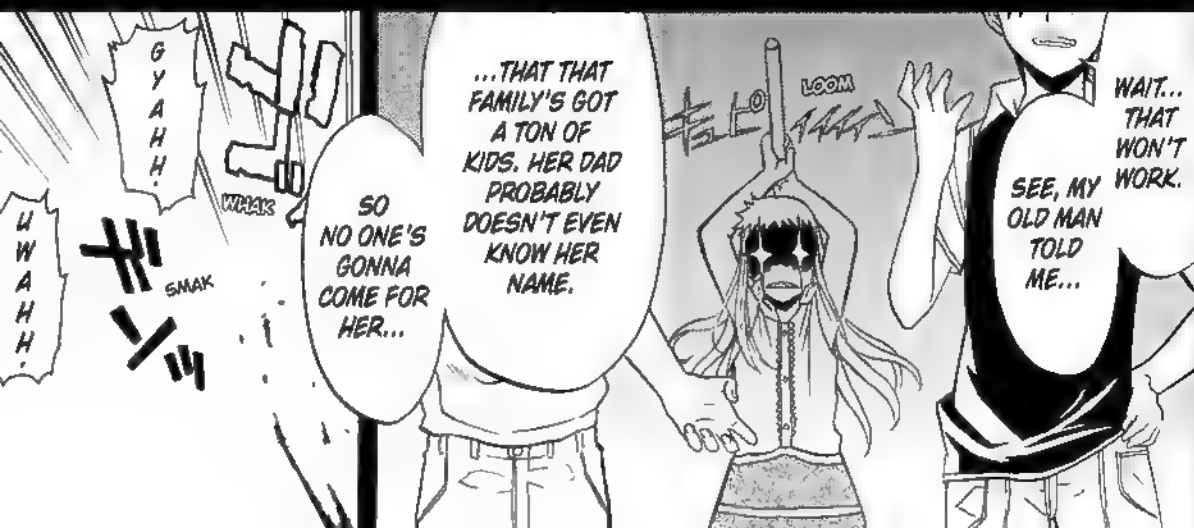
THAT'D
BE TOO
LATE
.....!

EVEN IF I
REQUEST
BACKUP
FROM THE
NEAREST
PROTECTOR,
IT'D TAKE
HALF A DAY
FOR THEM
TO GET
HERE...





DEATH 24: BONDS AND TIES







I'VE NEVER BEEN SAVED LIKE THAT BEFORE BY SOMEONE SO COOL.

AH.

BUT I'M REALLY GRATEFUL.



OUCH, THAT HURTS !!

ACK !!

I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO REALLY CRY ABOUT.

OH, YOU THINK SO?



EH?

YOUR NAME.

SPIT IT OUT!!

R-RIGHT ...!!

JOLT

...HEY. WHAT'S YOUR NAME, ANYWAY?



R-REALLY ?

YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS COOL TOO?

YOU ...

AHEH.



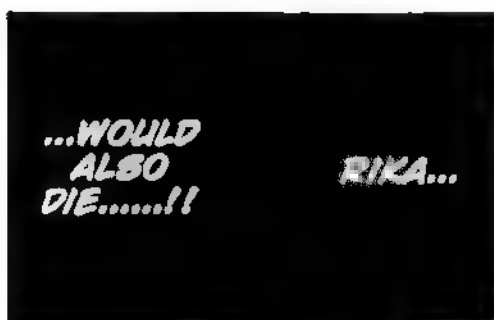
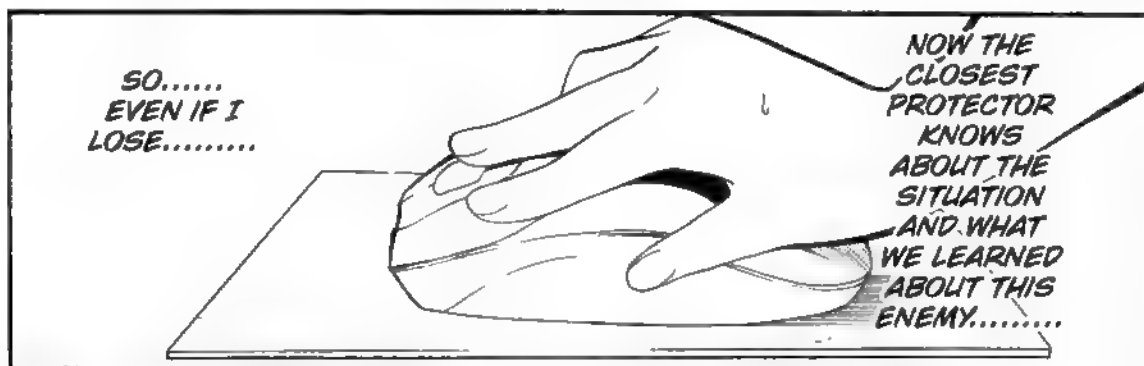
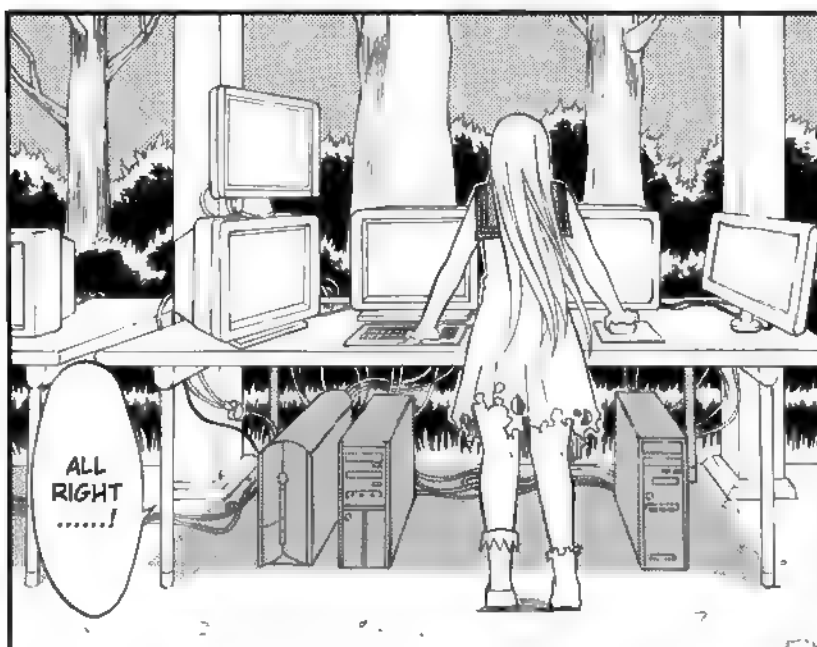
RIKA ARAGAMI.

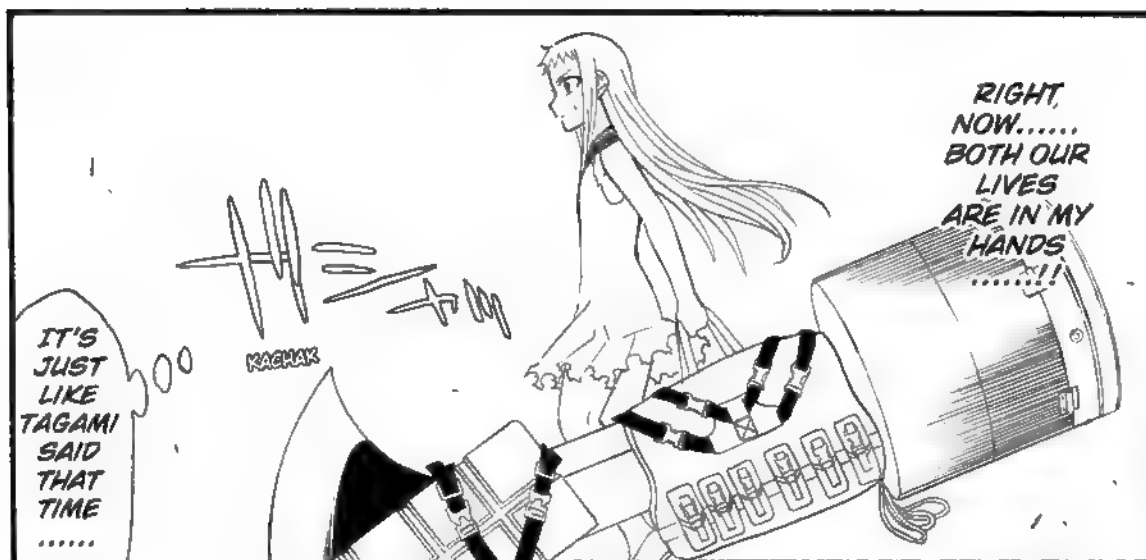
RIKA.

I'M



DEATH 24: BONDS AND TIES





IT'S
JUST
LIKE
TAGAMI
SAID
THAT
TIME
.....

RIGHT,
NOW.....
BOTH OUR
LIVES
ARE IN MY
HANDS
.....!!



ALL
THAT'S
LEFT
.....



CRUMPLE

THE
BLUEPRINTS
TO THEIR
UNDERGROUND
TRAIN
LINES AND
SHELTERS...

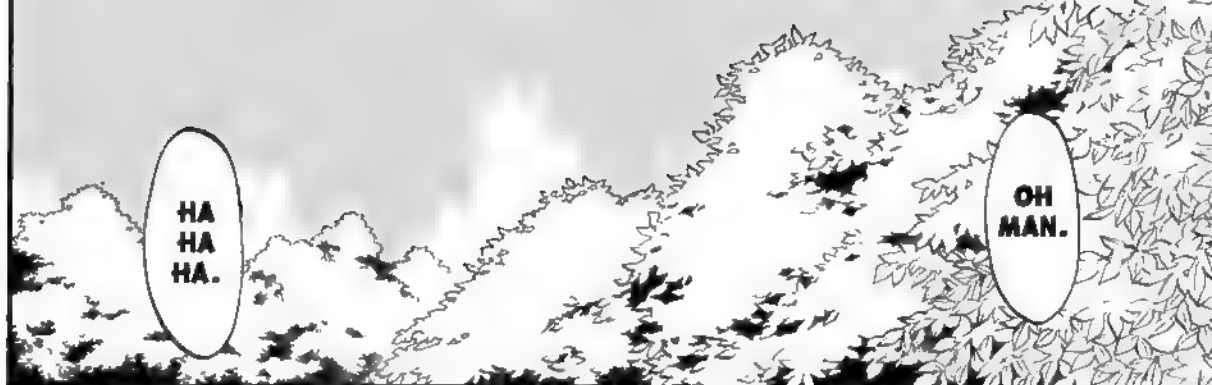
I'VE
MEMORIZED IT
ALL.....!!

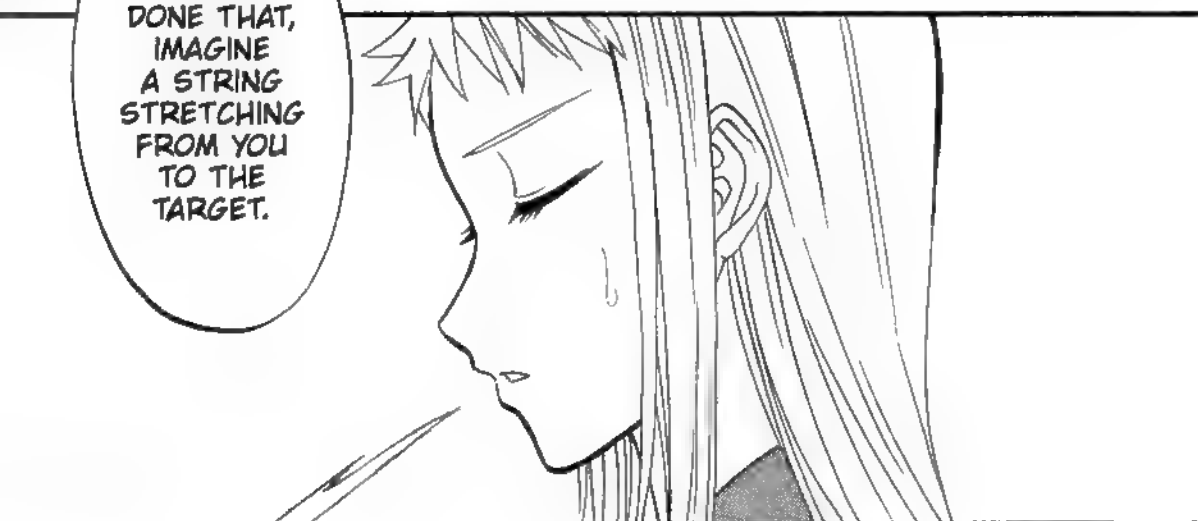


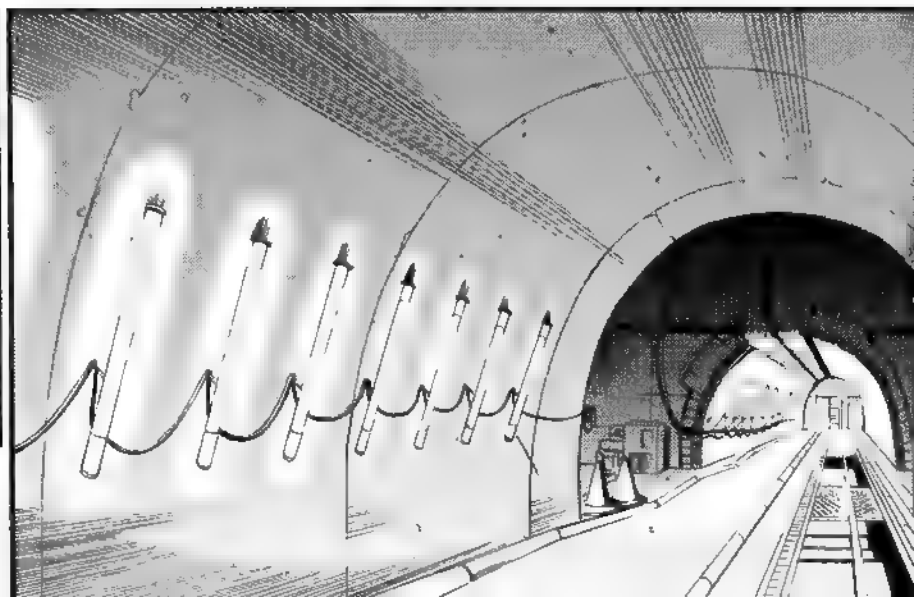
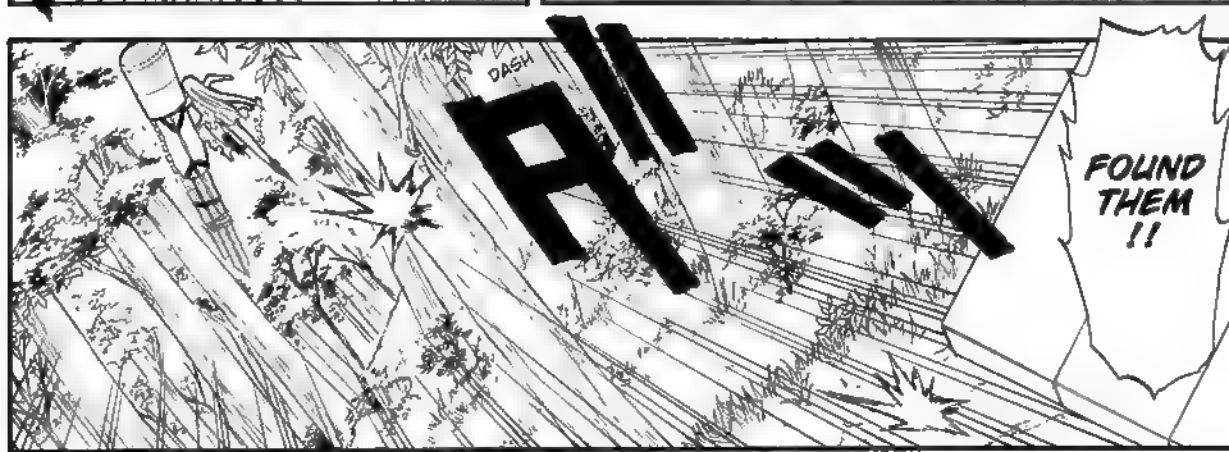
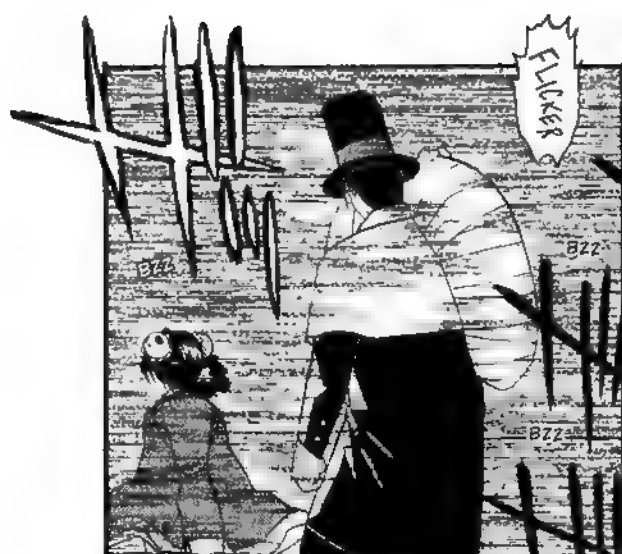
STEP

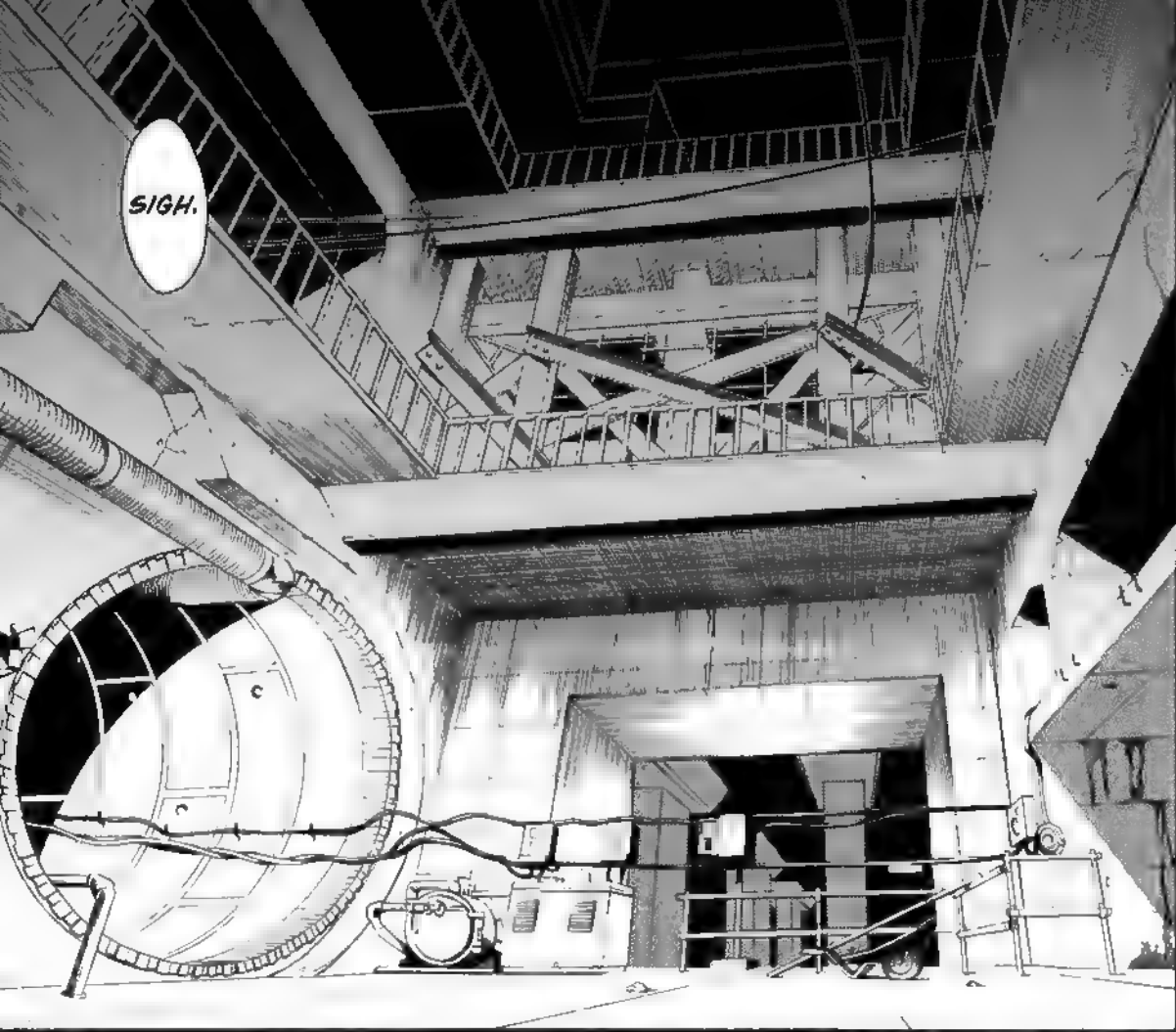
FIRST
I'VE GOTTA
CATCH UP
TO THEM
.....!!

.....
IS TO
TAKE
ACTION
.....!!









SIGH.



AHA
HA.

ROGERE,
YOU
IDIOT.

I'M WORN
OUT..... HAAA.
SHE MAY
BE A YOUNG
WOMAN,
BUT
LUGGING
HER
AROUND IS
A CHORE
.....



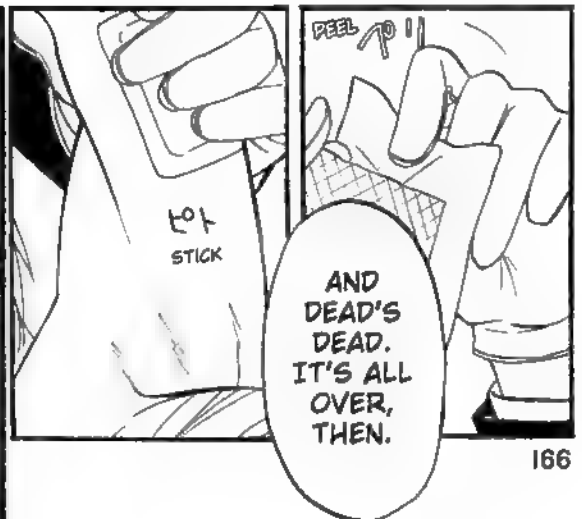
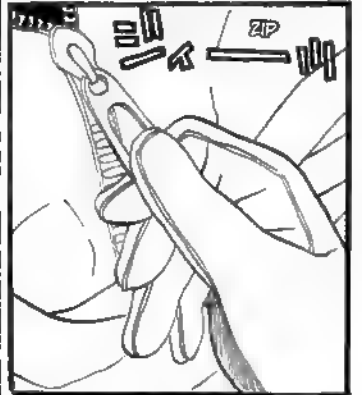
THAT
WOULD
BE A
WASTE.

.....
HEH.

DON'T
BE
RASH.

IT
HONESTLY
WOULD'VE
BEEN
MUCH
EASIER TO
KILL HER
THERE
AND
THEN.

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU'RE
PLAN-
NING.
TAKING
HER
WITH
US LIKE
THAT...









HAA.

...A
SLIDESHOW
OF HER
ENTIRE
LIFE.

WHAT
THE
YOUNG
MISS'S
HEAVILY
DAMAGED
BODY IS
SHOWING
HER,
INSIDE
HER
HEAD,
IS...

FROM
BIRTH TO
PRESENT.

HAA.

HAA.



HAA

.....

SA...
KI.

.....

TCH

...

SA

...



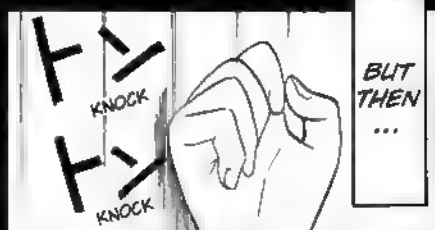
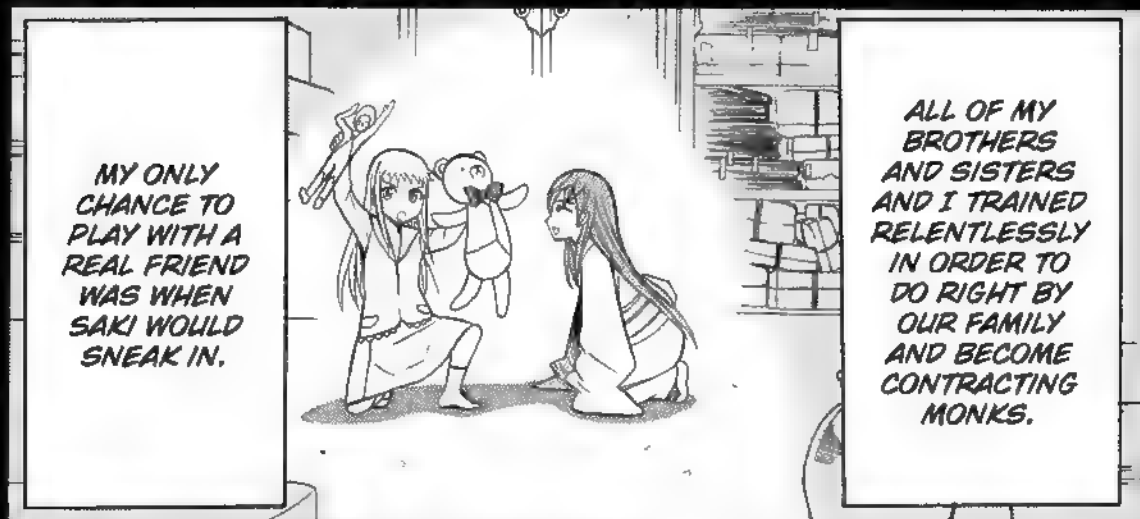
IN THAT
SENSE,
SAKI WAS
MY FIRST
AND ONLY
FRIEND.

SAKI
AND I
BECAME
GOOD
FRIENDS,
AFTER
THAT.

KAPOW.

WHOOSH.
PEW PEW
PEW.







HMPH.

WHAT IS
IT?

YES.

AH
...



UNDER-
STOOD.

OKAY
.....



BY
THE WAY,
RIKA-SAN.

.....



ABOUT
YOUR
SCHEDULE
FOR THE
AFTERNOON
...

AFTER
TWO
HOURS OF
MEDITATION,
YOU WILL
COPY
SUTRAS.

AFTER
DINNER
COMES
ESOTERIC
TRAINING.



...THAT
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN
COMING TO THIS
STOREHOUSE
FOR MENTAL
TRAINING...

...BUT
INSTEAD, TO
PLAY WITH
THAT AMASE
GIRL AGAIN?

DON'T
TELL
ME
...



WHAT
EXACTLY...
IS THIS
TOY?

SO VERY
ODD...

AH.



I
HAVEN'T
BEEN...
PLAYING
WITH
HER
.....

.....
NO.

.....
WELL?
IS
THAT
THE
CASE?



IF THE HEAD
OF THE FAMILY
RECOGNIZES
YOUR EFFORTS,
YOU MAY EVEN
GET TO MEET.

YOU
LEAD A
SPECIAL
LIFE, UNLIKE
THAT OF
OTHER
CHILDREN.

...YOU ARE A
CHILD OF THE
ESTEEMED
ARAGAMI
LINE, ONE OF
THE KOUJON
SECT'S TEN
GREAT HOLY
FAMILIES.

.....AS
I'M SURE
YOU'RE
AWARE
...

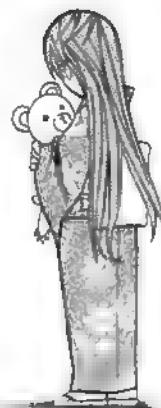


I.....
UNDER-
STAND.

.....

BUT
THEN.....
ONE
SUMMER
NIGHT, THE
FOLLOWING
YEAR...

SAKI
DIDN'T COME
AROUND
MUCH
ANYMORE,
AND ALL I
HAD LEFT OF
HER WERE
MEMORIES.

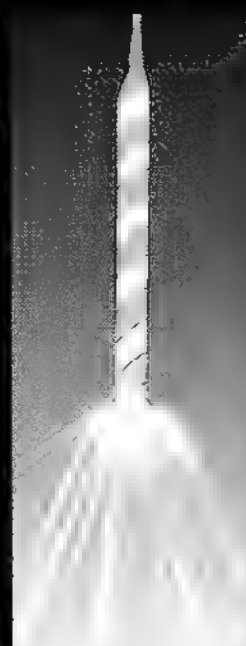


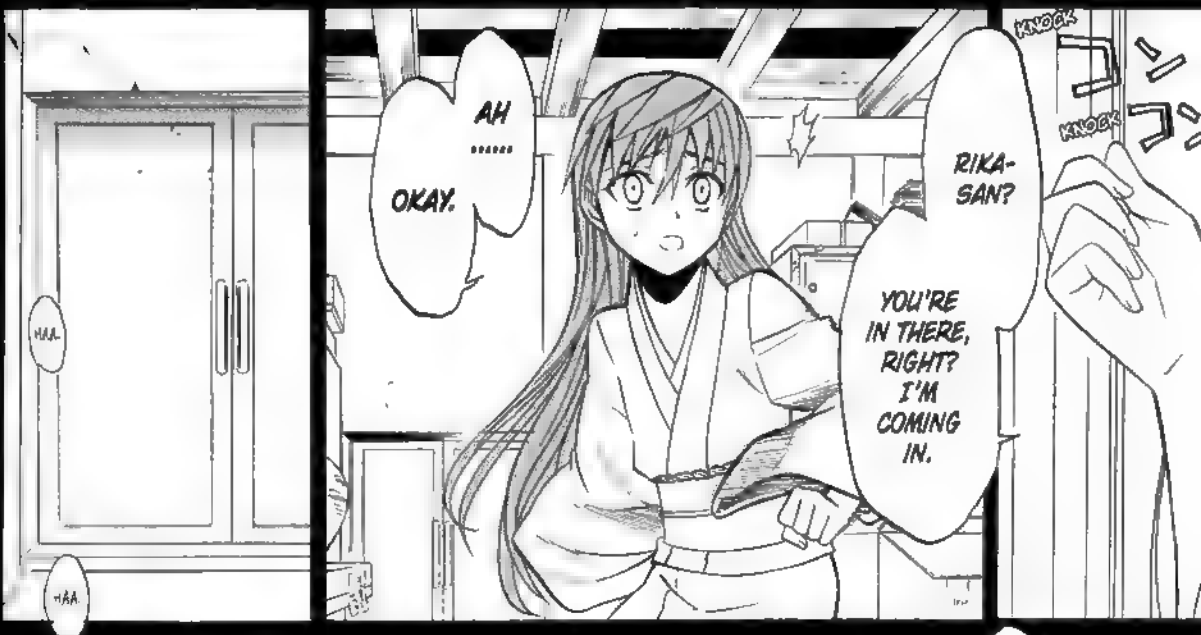
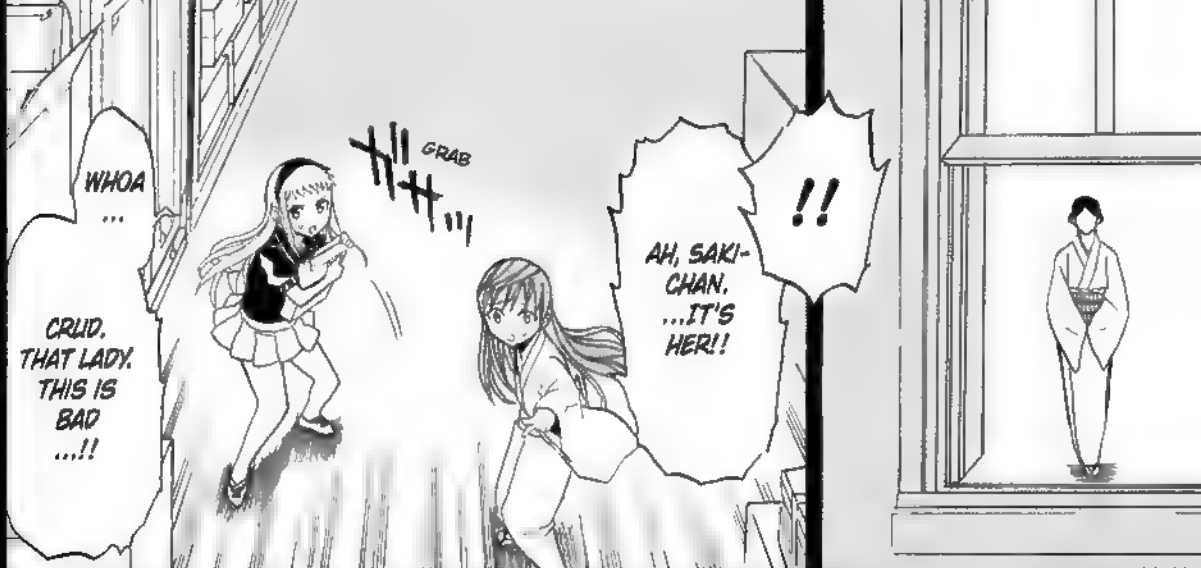
THE
RULES OF
THE ARAGAMI
FAMILY
WOULDN'T
EVEN ALLOW
ME THAT
ONE, SMALL
FRIENDSHIP.



IT
DOESN'T
SEEM.....
LIKE I CAN
GO TO THE
FESTIVAL
THIS YEAR
EITHER









JUST
LOOKING
SOMETHING
UP...

I.....
UH...

RIKA-
SAN.....
WHAT
WERE YOU
DOING?



HERE
IN THIS
STORE-
HOUSE
.....?

UHM...
YES.

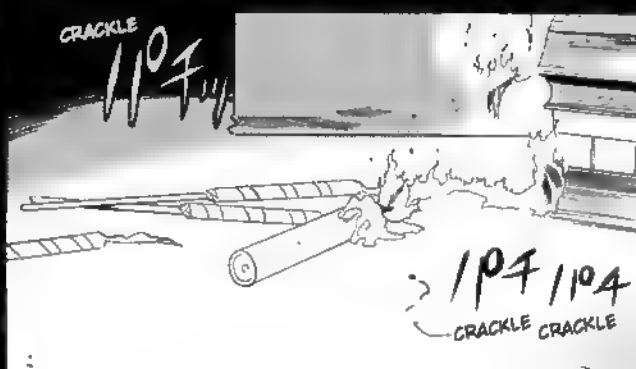


LEAP

...!!

SQUAT

SIZZLE 4!! 4!!





EH

IF
THAT'S NOT
ENOUGH TO
MAKE YOU
UNDER-
STAND...

THEN
WE HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO
SEND YOU AWAY
TO MT. GORYOU.



RIPPLE

4+7=11

YOU DON'T
HAVE THE TIME
TO PLAY WITH
ORDINARY
CHILDREN.

I'LL TELL
YOU ONCE
MORE.

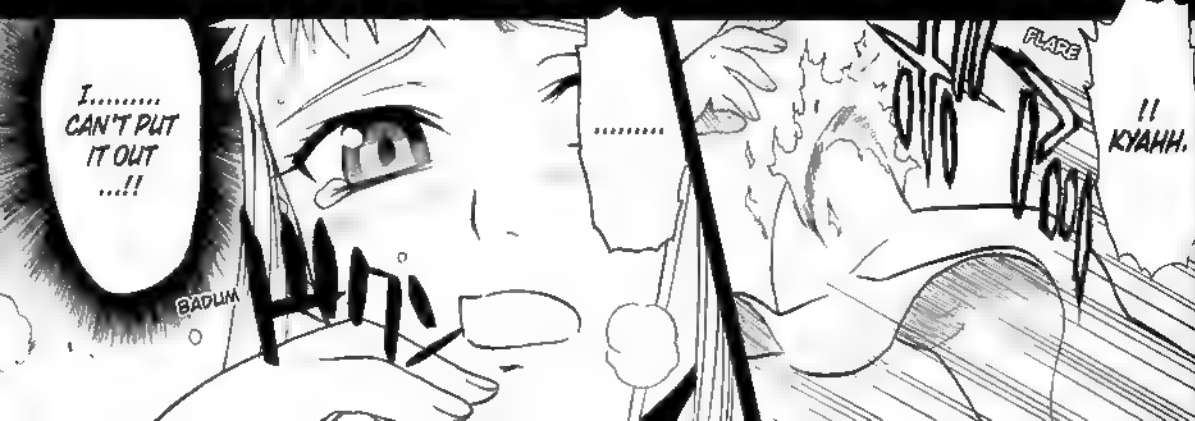


PAT

PAT

PAT

THAT
MOUNTAIN IS
SECLUDED,
AWAY FROM
THE SECULAR
WORLD.
AND
NATURALLY,
THAT CHILD
WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO
FOLLOW YOU
DEEP INTO THE
MOUNTAINS
IN ANOTHER
PREFECTURE.



I.....
CAN'T PUT
IT OUT
...!!

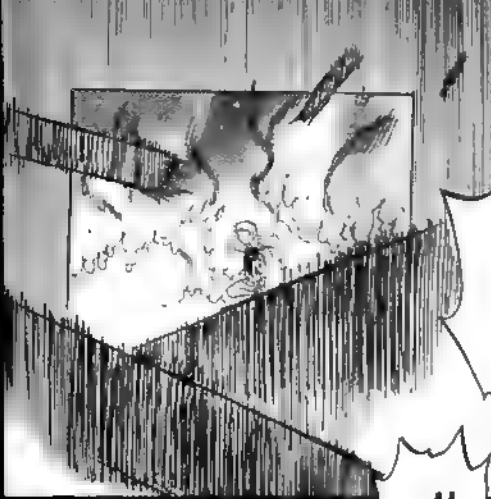
BADUM

FLARE

!!
KYAHH.







!!



BUT...
SAKI...

I GOT
AWAY
WITH
SOME
BURNT
HAIR AND
NOTHING
MORE
.....

AND
POWERLESS
.....

BACK
THEN.....
I WAS SO
YOUNG.....
AND FOOLISH
.....

HAA.

HAA.

HAA.

IT'S
OKAY
.....

I'M...
RIGHT
HERE
.....

SAKI-
CHAN
...

RIKA
.....

WHERE
ARE
YOU
.....?

HAA
.....

RIKA
.....

IT'S
OKAY
.....

IT'S
OKAY.....
SAKI-
CHAN.

.....!

HAA

HAA

IT'S ALL
BECAUSE.....
I SAID WE
SHOULD.....
PLAY WITH
SPARKLERS.

SORRY
...

HAA



...
GONNA...
DIE.

I
THINK
I'M...

HEY.....
RIKA...

WHAT
IS IT?



I
WANT TO
SAY.....
IF IT
WOULD...
MAKE
YOU
FEEL
BETTER
.....
"I'M JUST
FINE"
.....

REALLY
.....
HAA

DON'T
EVEN...
SAY
THAT
.....
WHAT
!!



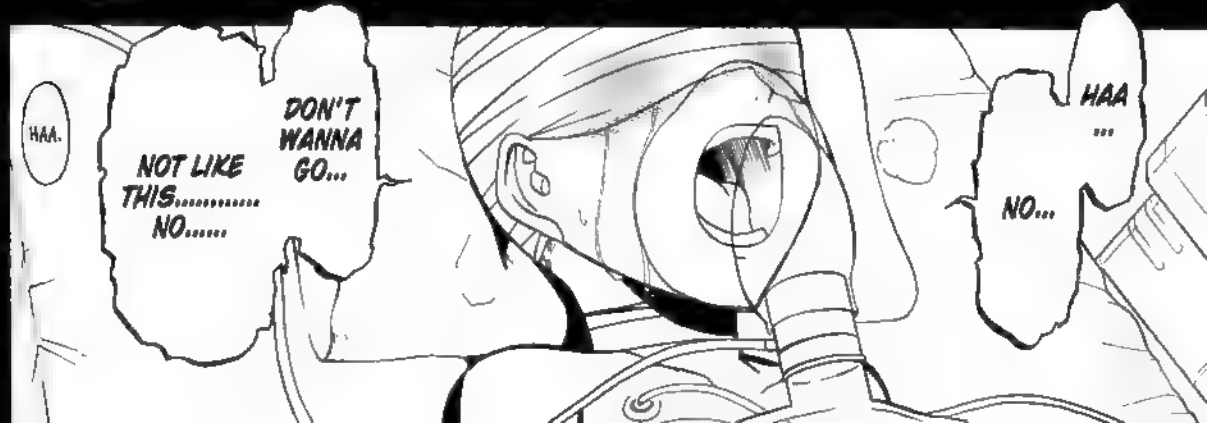
BUT MY
BODY IS
COLD. SO
COLD.....

IL
b
TREMBLE

MY
ARMS AND
LEGS ARE
BURNING
UP.

I'M
SCARED.

BUT...
IT'S NOT
TRUE.



HAA.

DON'T
WANNA
GO...
NOT LIKE
THIS.....
NO.....

HAA
...
NO...



...I
SAW SAKI
LYING THERE,
DYING, I
FORGOT HOW
TO CRY AND
JUST WENT
NUMB.

SO
WHEN
...

WITH THE
STRENGTH
AND
FREEDOM
I DIDN'T
HAVE,
SHE WAS
A FRIEND
I COULD
LOOK UP
TO.

AND I MADE
A DECISION.



SEAL: MANTRA OF LIGHT PENTACHROMATIC SEAL





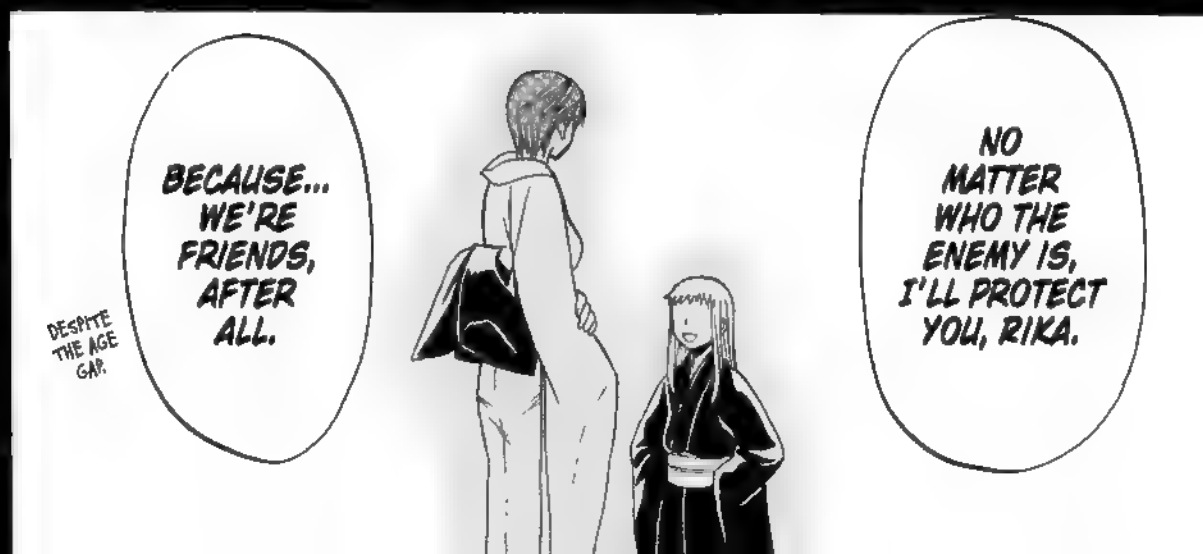
.....
NNN.



OH,
SAKI
!!

THANK
GOOD-
NESS
!!



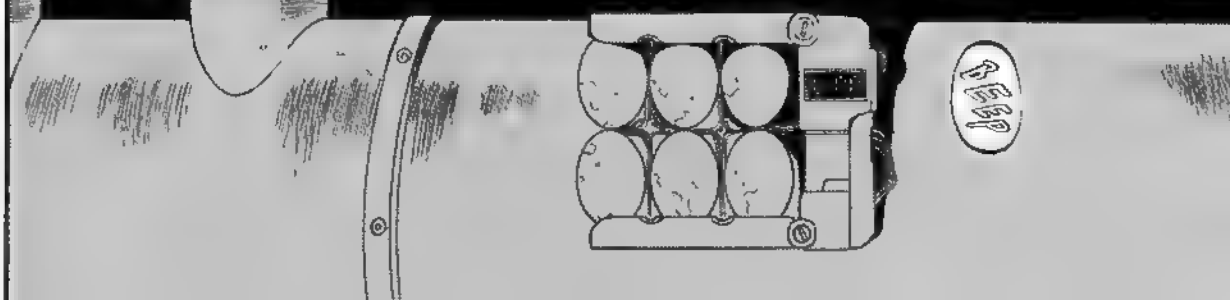
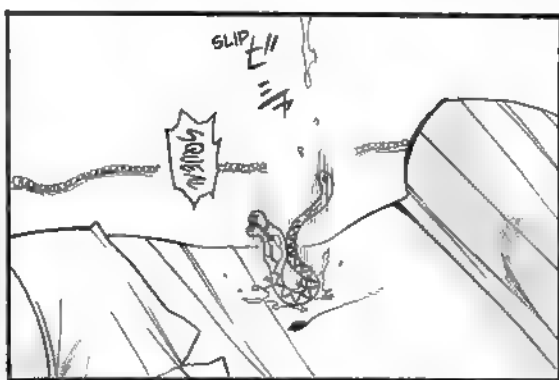
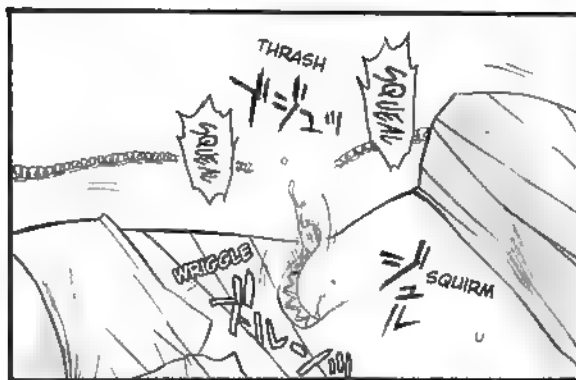






EWW. GROSS.

WUZZAT ?





.....
SAKI!!

I MADE A
PROMISE.

NO
MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS.....
I'LL
ALWAYS
PROTECT
RIKA!!

WHAT A
SHAME.

BUT
AFTER
YOUR
LIFE WAS
SPARED,
SO LUCKILY...
♡

FWOOSH

エウウウ

FU
FU.

GOOD
JOB
CATCHING
UP.

BACK TO
NARAKU.

FOOM

...THEN
I'LL BE
HAPPY
TO
TAKE
YOU
TOO.

IF
YOU'RE
REALLY
SO
EAGER
...



...AS
WELL AS
THOSE TO
THE WEST
HAVE
BEEN
SEALED
OFF.



THE
PULSE
LINES TO
THE EAST
OF YAMA
CITY.....



AND
HOW
LONG
BEFORE
THAT
HAPPENS
?

YES.



WE NEED
ONLY WAIT
UNTIL YAMA
CITY'S PULSE
LINES ARE
MUDDIED
AND IMPURE.
THEN WE
INVADE.

LEE LI HONG
IS ENGAGED
WITH A
PURSUER TO
THE NORTH,
BUT I'VE
BEEN TOLD
THE PULSE
LINE THERE
IS ALSO
SEALED.



PROBABLY...
TWO OR
THREE
MONTHS.

...IT
SHOULDN'T
TAKE LONG
AT ALL.

THAT
DEPENDS
HEAVILY
ON WHAT
HAPPENS
FROM
HERE ON,
BUT...





I AM
TITILLATED
TO MY
VERY
CORE.

LIKE A
YOUNGSTER
WAITING
FOR THE
COMPLETION
OF HIS NEW
PLAYTHING
.....

Corpse Princess & End



CORPSE PRINCESS PRODUCTION HELPERS:

- SAKANO-SAN
- OOSUMI-SAN
- KATOU-SAN
- YOSHIOKA-SAN
- MARK-TSUAN



EMERGENCY HELPERS:

- MEGUMI-SAN
- KAWASHITA-SAN
- IMAOKA-SAN
- NIJOU-TSUAN



SUPERVISOR:

- SHIMIZU

AND THANKS TO ALL THE READERS OUT THERE!



HEY, HEY.
I JUST
NOTICED
THAT THAT
ROYAL
THRONE
POPPED UP
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.
HOW'D YOU
MAKE THAT
HAPPEN?

THANK
GOODNESS
WE HAD
SOME
CARPENTER
SHIKABANE
TO HELP.

THE
MORNING
AFTER, I
USED MY
BIZARRE
LOTUS TO
BUILD IT.



**"LIKE A YOUNGSTER WAITING FOR THE
COMPLETION OF HIS NEW PLAYTHING," SO
SAYS MA'EN SUGAMI OF THE UNCLEAN BUNCH,
THE REVIVED DEMON LORD AND ULTIMATE
EVIL ENTITY. THE DIE IS CAST, THE EARTH
IS BEFOULED, AND THE UNCLEAN BUNCH'S
KING BIDES HIS TIME BEFORE INVADING.
MEANWHILE, OURI CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE.
THE YOUNG CONTRACTING MONK HAS NO
SKILLS—ONLY HIS CORPSE PRINCESS, MAKINA.
THEIR TIME IS RUNNING OUT.**

**SHIKABANE KILLS NEEDED
FOR CORPSE PRINCESS
MAKINA HOSHIMURA TO
ASCEND TO HEAVEN: 95**

volume COMING SOON

CORPSE PRINCESS

WHAT IF? SERIES
SPECIAL EDITION

WHAT IF THE KING WERE BORN
IN 11TH CENTURY ENGLAND?



AKAHITO YOSHIICHI

ITSUKI YAMAGAMI

HEIGHT: 154 CM WEIGHT: 44 KG

BIRTHDAY: MARCH 18TH

AGE: AT DEATH- 16 (MENTAL AGE IS 18)

BLOOD TYPE: O

FAVORITE THINGS: ICE CREAM

(ESPECIALLY RICH FLAVORS IN THE VANILLA FAMILY, LIKE THE ONES HÄAGEN-DAZS MAKES)

LEAST FAVORITE THINGS: SPICY FOODS

(CURRY IS ALL RIGHT, THOUGH)

SPECIAL ABILITIES: GYMNASTICS COMPETITIONS



TAKAMASA "GENPAKU" SOUGI

HEIGHT: 172 CM WEIGHT: 60 KG

BIRTHDAY: DECEMBER 29TH AGE: 19

BLOOD TYPE: O

FAVORITE THINGS: SWEET ROLLED OMELETTES, OPENED AND DRIED HORSE MACKEREL

LEAST FAVORITE THINGS: HAVING TOO MUCH TIME ON HIS HANDS

SPECIAL ABILITIES: GOOD AT MOST THINGS- HE'S A GUY WITH LOTS OF HOBBIES

VISION: 20/50 IN BOTH EYES, WITHOUT GLASSES



TRANSLATION NOTES

OVERALL

Japanese Buddhism has a complex ranking system for its monks called *soukan* (*sou* meaning “monk,” and *kan* implying hierarchy). Monks in this story often address each other by rank.

PAGE 37

“Namaskar” and the more commonly heard “namaste” are traditional greetings of Sanskrit origin in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. Here, the original Japanese overlays a literal “good evening” with the phonetics for “namaskar.”

PAGE 39

The *jiangshi* is a mythical vampire/zombie-like creature in Chinese folklore. It absorbs the life force of living victims and moves by hopping around.

PAGE 63

Chinzei Hachirou Tametomo (also known simply as Minamoto no Tametomo) was a real-life samurai who lived in 12th century Japan. He was known as a powerful archer who—like many particularly prolific samurai—has become a legendary figure to whom practically supernatural feats have been attributed.

PAGE 66

The kanji in “Ma’en Sugami” literally mean “demon-bond, curse-god,” so Akasha immediately understands the significance of the name.

PAGE 94

Gohei rice cakes, dried sweetfish, and hida beef are all regional specialties of Gifu prefecture, and Gero Onsen is one of Japan’s three most famous hot springs. Li Hong is essentially a walking guidebook for Gifu!

PAGE 101

The Japanese school year starts in March or April, so unlike in the West, summer vacation is just a break between terms/semesters.

PAGE 115

Umehara’s ZENBUNOSE figure is the “maiko”—or apprentice geiko (variety of geisha)—version. Maiko and geiko traditionally operate in Kyoto, which is located in the Kinki (or Kansai) region of Japan, making the figure a region-exclusive variety.

CORPSE PRINCESS ⑤

Yoshiichi Akahito

Translation: Caleb D. Cook

Lettering: Bianca Pistillo

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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